



The Grinnell Magazine

Summer 2015

**The Most Precious
Commodity on Earth**



Exploring a Career

Second-year student reflects on her spring break externship.



Trang Nguyen '17 is a math major with an East Asian studies concentration; she's from Vietnam. Interested in data analysis and strategic business challenges, she has a strong passion for marketing particularly and has been exploring different options in the industry.

At 12, I wanted to become a mathematician. At 16, I studied English to become a diplomat. Now, at 19, I strive to do marketing.

It's good to know what you like, isn't it? But here is the fact: You don't marry all of your crushes. You marry someone you like, who likes you back, and whose lifestyle matches yours. Likewise, not all interests can become your future career. Whether in relationships or a career, we all need a dating phase. And dating is fun!

One way Grinnell offers "career dating" is through its spring break job shadows, which it calls externships. Externships last three to five days and are offered by Grinnell alumni throughout the United States. Many include a home stay with the alum too.

So I scanned through the list of spring 2015 externship possibilities with the keyword "marketing." I was quite surprised to come across an externship in Grinnell College's Office of Communications because to me, communication is information-driven rather than marketing-related. I then looked it up on the Internet and discovered that marketing in education is really a thing. So why not give it a try?

This spring break I did a three-day externship with **Michele Regenold '89**, editorial director at Grinnell.

On the first day, Michele walked me through the concept of marketing in higher education. She explained how the Office of Communications — on the website and in print materials — represents Grinnell to alumni and prospective students. Within the office, different teams — editorial, Web, media, and creative — collaborate with one another and with other offices, like admission, to achieve marketing goals. "The editorial team writes stories for the Web that match up with the admission cycle," Michele says. "For example, this summer when prospective students visit campus, we'll have some stories related to our location and facilities."

Before the externship, I didn't know that higher education involves such considerable and even sophisticated marketing strategies. "The way you promote a regional or local school is different from the way you promote a national or globally known one," says **Jim Powers**, director of communications. To give prospective students the most accurate sense of the culture at Grinnell, the school has been working with a marketing firm that can understand Grinnellians well and produce materials that "feel like" Grinnell.

During my three days, I had the opportunity to talk to different teams in the office. **Sarah Anderson '98**,

Larissa Stalcup, and **Adrienne Squier** all studied marketing but they now have different specializations: Sarah coordinates the website, Larissa is a graphic designer, and Adrienne manages all social media platforms. Talking with them broadened my perspectives on possible options in a marketing career and gave me some guidelines about how I can prepare myself for each approach. Larissa introduced me to some design software and showed me how to study it by myself. Adrienne shared some cool media tips and how to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of media strategies.

Sarah says: "Even though I'm in charge of studying Web behaviors and brainstorming ideas, I still need to have some technical knowledge to know what is possible and what is not." Taking her advice, I plan to take more computer science classes even though I'm more interested in the strategy part.

It was also very interesting to listen to stories behind the recent redesign of our website. Major updates on the content and design of our website involve studies on brain development and Web behaviors. Their explanation shows examples of practical applications of what I studied in my Introduction to Psychology course.

An externship was also an opportunity for me to get some hands-on experiences. I shadowed Michele in two phone interviews. Interviewing someone for a story is really an art. It is not just a matter of asking the right questions; the interviewer must also keep control of the flow of the interview and keep the interviewee comfortable. "I do background research before interviews so I can ask thoughtful questions," Michele says.

I also tried doing an interview by myself. I interviewed **Kelly Guilbeau**, career counselor in the Center for Careers, Life, and Service, to get more information about the spring 2015 externship program. I asked her if externship hosts have as good of an experience as us students. Kelly says that most alumni externship hosts give positive feedback about it.

During the interview, Michele helped point out key ideas in Kelly's answers and analyze important elements of an interview that I should take notice of. She said I did a good job, so I guess I do have some potential.

Although this three-day "date" could not give me a clear answer to my career confusion, it showed me some hints to figure out the answer by myself. ■



Sara DeRosa '16 advises **Ed Senn '79** as he prepares to take water samples from Perry Pond at the Conard Environmental Research Area during Alumni College activities May 28, 2015.

Photo by Justin Hayworth

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POSTMASTER

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Mission Statement

The Grinnell Magazine is published quarterly for alumni, students, parents, faculty, and friends of the College by the Office of Communications. The contents of this magazine are selected to stimulate thought and discussion, to demonstrate the range of opinions and activities on the campus and in its broader community, and to provide news about the College and its alumni. Views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy of Grinnell College.

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On the cover:

Photo illustration by Justin Hayworth.



THE CASE FOR GRINNELL

Red-Letter Day

Philanthropy at Grinnell is coming to life in a big way. The College's effort to talk about its financial position in comprehensive and accessible terms has been a key factor. It seems the more our College community learns about the phenomenal ongoing stewardship of resources at Grinnell, the more generous and engaged it becomes in supporting goals aimed at the well-being of future Grinnellians.

We are working on several exciting and ambitious initiatives, including the revitalization of our iconic learning spaces and the expansion of opportunities for student research and global studies. Watch for more details as the year progresses.

As summer arrives, we in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) would like to take a moment to celebrate your ardent commitment to sustaining the College as a national and global leader in liberal arts education.

As a community, that commitment was never more apparent than during Scarlet & Give Back Day. Our staff spent many weeks planning every detail of the March 31 event. We had high hopes going in, but our expectations were blown out of the water. At 12:01 a.m. April 1, our totals showed that 1,972 alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends had pledged \$878,391.15 – an all-time record for donor participation and dollars raised in an event of this kind.

The day turned out to be more than a giving event. Students, faculty, and staff gathered in campus tents for food and activities. Alumni, volunteers, and students created buzz on social media. Participation across the board was dazzling, and class years 2001 through 2012 demonstrated especially high engagement. Kudos to the class of 2008 for tallying the highest donor total of the day (62)!

Very special thanks go to **Daniel '77** and **Patricia Jipp Finkelman '80** for two participation challenges that sent donor response through the roof. Their generosity and enthusiasm set the tone for success and sparked some high-spirited fun on social media. In the afternoon hours, it was gratifying to see the phones light up as **President Raynard S. Kington** and former President **George Drake '56** answered calls.

We were particularly thrilled that 158 students and 113 faculty and staff pledged support. It is a strong signal that we invest and believe in ourselves and the work ahead. My DAR colleagues left the building in the wee hours of April 1 exhausted but exhilarated.

We cannot say thank you enough to all of you who chose to participate. We especially want to recognize those of you who were first-time donors – and there were many. So, we will say it one more time, from the heart. *Thank You* for making Scarlet & Give Back Day a genuine red-letter day in Grinnell history.

– Yours for Grinnell,
Shane Jacobson
Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations



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*Most mentally ill
did in fact
end up behind bars.*

– Stephen Fischer '53

LETTERS

Mental health

The mental health piece by **Russell Pierce '82** in *The Grinnell Magazine* (Winter 2014) brought a burst of warmth to this aging mental health worker – long retired. In the day, prisons were often described as the major mental health “hospitals” in the community – aptly so. Most mentally ill did in fact end up behind bars. Oh, we did work at jail diversion, but these efforts did not have the public push of today, as described by Pierce.

Interestingly, I was afforded an opportunity to design and facilitate a mental

health education program for law enforcement officers. My credibility was enhanced less by academic credentials than by the fact that I had a mental health history. Yes, I might have been that guy howling at the moon while peeing on the courthouse steps. Gives new meaning to credibility. Pierce says, “people like myself are being successfully integrated into the whole fabric of community life.” Is he one of us? I would like to think so. Or if so, acknowledgement would have brought strength to an already gratifying article. In my day, it never would have appeared.

– Stephen Fischer '53
Miami

“War is peace”

As a Jewish American whose family in Hungary was exterminated by the Nazis during the Holocaust and whose mother’s only brother died fighting Nazis at Monte Cassino in World War II, I am deeply offended by **Glen Peiffer '72** (“Letters to the Editor,” Spring 2015) equating my request that you remember peace activists in the pages of *The Grinnell Magazine* (“Letters to the Editor,” Winter 2014) to appeasing Hitler. His contention that soldiers want peace more than the rest of us and that only they can provide freedom helps explain why Americans continue to elect those committed to using war to make peace, recalling the slogan of the English Socialist Party in George Orwell’s 1984: “War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.”

In a song written by The Fugs band member Tuli Kupferberg, whose writings published in Grinnell’s “underground” *Pterodactyl* were singled out by Iowa Attorney General Richard Turner in his legal brief against the paper, The Fugs in 1966 sang:
*Kill, kill, kill for peace
Kill, kill, kill for peace
Near or middle or very far east
Far or near or very middle east
Sadly, nearly 50 years later,
we’re still at it.*

– David Skinner '69
Bisbee, Ariz.



Photos by Justin Hayworth



A recording was made of Duke Ellington's Jan. 10, 1957 concert in Darby Gymnasium

Inaccurate warning

The recent article “Experiment in Free Speech” (Spring 2015) says “Warning: This story contains graphic language.”

This is an all-too-common false idiom. “Graphic language” can only mean words describing a photo or piece of visual art.

On TV we also hear the tautological expression, “The following contains graphic imagery,” when a better phrase might be “disturbing imagery.”

By definition all imagery is graphic. I may be a language purist, but my Grinnell education contributed to that attitude.

– Merle Fischlowitz '53
San Diego

Another alt newspaper

The recent article, “Experiment in Free Speech” (Spring 2015), brought a smile to my curmudgeonly face. In 1975–76, several co-conspirators and I launched an underground newspaper we called *The New Time*. Much like our predecessor, *Pterodactyl*, it featured articles on politics, sexuality, and the local drug scene. The editorial policy was strict: One had to write an article in order for it to be published. Beyond that, there were no limits. Our distribution network consisted of stuffing campus mailboxes and leaving stacks in various places. It had a brief but glorious life span, lasting perhaps three or four issues. Our impact, to say the least, was less than monumental.

– Doug Dohrer '76
Berkeley, Calif.

herbie hancock and Duke Ellington

The Grinnell legend of **Herbie Hancock '60** and Duke Ellington mentioned by **Andrew Ettenhofer '00** (“Letters to the Editor,” Spring 2015) was close to factual. The Duke Ellington Band played at Grinnell Thursday night, Jan. 10, 1957, in Darby Gymnasium. An exciting performance. But that night it snowed and snowed and snowed. As a result, the band bus was unable to leave and classes were canceled. Early in the afternoon, some of the band members appeared in various lounges to jam. Several came to the Younker lounge to jam — Jimmy Woode on bass, Sam Woodyard on drums, and Quentin Jackson on trombone — and asked if anyone played the piano.

Herbie Hancock stepped forward, and we enjoyed some spectacular jamming. The group took a break, and one of the band members returned with Duke Ellington himself. I assume that they had been impressed with Herbie’s skill. A second set was played, and the rumor was that the Duke had told Herbie that he could play piano for him any time he wanted. And the rumor was that Herbie thanked the Duke for his invitation, but told the Duke that he wanted to finish his studies at Grinnell and then attend Juilliard.

All in all, a most memorable event.

– David L. White '60
Fort Worth, Texas

*I'm so glad
to find that Grinnell
is not anti-Christian.*

– Karin Lane Arsan '65

Religion at Grinnell

I was so pleased to see you write about religion ["Diversity of Divinities," Spring 2015] in *The Grinnell Magazine*. I'm so glad to find that Grinnell is not anti-Christian. It certainly wasn't when I was there 1961–65. I arrived a Christian and was greatly nourished by the little Episcopal church across the street from the College. I was confirmed there and spent my life mostly in English colonies and the Church of England. My Turkish husband was baptized and confirmed in the Church of England in Hong Kong in 1994. Christ and the church have been a huge part of our life. I hope to attend the service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church when I'm at Grinnell for my 50th reunion in May.

I also remember taking [courses about] both Old and New Testaments when I was at Grinnell.

Thank you for writing about religion and Grinnell.

– Karin Lane Arsan '65
Hackensack, Minn.

The End of Tolerance and Diversity

Grinnell, as well, perhaps, as a good part of the contemporary Western liberal world, is well on its way to tolerate itself to intolerance and to diversify itself to uniformity. For the celebrated diversity only seems to include those who think the same; that is to say, who accept the liberal moral creed of the day. Others might not be actively oppressed, but they will be denied equal footing ("disrecognized") and generally ignored. The new tolerance-preaching and diversity-extolling moral majority seems to neither notice nor care about those who – for whatever reasons and with whatever persuasions – remain beyond its confines.

Inadvertently, the article "Diversity of Divinities" (Spring 2015) from the same issue provides an apt illustration,

introducing five religious leaders representing five different traditions. All of them are certainly very nice people, yet they all say and do more or less the same and come across as mutually interchangeable. This is called diversity and this is, apparently, the extent of what is going to be tolerated.

– Tomas Suchomel '95
Brno, Czech Republic

The Grinnell Magazine welcomes letters from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to the College. All letters should include the author's name and address. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, and style. Address correspondence to: *The Grinnell Magazine*, Office of Communications, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112-1690, or send email to magazine@grinnell.edu.

CAMPUS NOTES

Associate Dean Selected for Leadership Program

Maria Tapias invited to participate in prestigious academy.

Maria Tapias, associate dean of Grinnell College, is one of 28 midlevel administrators in higher education nationwide selected by the Council of Independent Colleges to participate in a yearlong Senior Leadership Academy.

The program, which is for administrators in higher education who are nominated by their institutions, is designed to prepare prospective leaders to assume positions as the chief officers in higher education. As a program participant, Tapias will hone her campus leadership skills by developing a professional experience plan and attending two seminars held in the Washington, D.C., area.



Tapias, who holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, serves in several capacities at Grinnell. She serves as associate dean of the College and the president's senior adviser for diversity. She is also associate professor of anthropology and has taught in the anthropology department at Grinnell since 2001.

Summerlong

Bakopoulos' third novel is set in Grinnell.

Published by Ecco/HarperCollins in June 2015, *Summerlong* tells the story of Claire and Don Lowry, who discover that married life isn't quite as they'd predicted.

One night Don, a father of two, leaves his house for an evening stroll, only to wake up the next morning stoned and sleeping in a hammock next to a young woman he barely knows. His wife Claire leaves the house on this same night to go on a midnight run — only to find herself bumming cigarettes and beer outside the all-night convenience store.

"In summer 2012, I had insomnia and walked around Grinnell in the middle of the night," says author **Dean Bakopoulos**, assistant professor of English. "It's a great place to walk at night — safe, deserted, pretty. The setting I knew better than any other was what happens at 2:30 in the morning in Grinnell. That's how the first scene came to me. It's four insomniacs at a Kum & Go. I think it's the only novel — it's the only novel that I know of



— that starts at a Kum & Go."

Summerlong is Bakopoulos' third novel, following *Please Don't Come Back from the Moon* and *My American Unhappiness*. He has *Summerlong* readings and signings scheduled in June at bookstores in Chicago; Milwaukee; Madison, Wis.; Iowa City, Iowa; Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Ann Arbor, Mich. A launch event is being held in Grinnell.

National Endowment for the humanities Award

Cohn receives a summer stipend for KGB project.



Edward Cohn, assistant professor of history, will receive a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities for his book-length project, “Policing Practices and the KGB’s Struggle with Dissent in the Baltic States, 1953–91.”

“From Joseph Stalin’s 1953 death to the USSR’s 1991 collapse, the KGB subjected hundreds of thousands of minor political offenders to a tactic called *profilaktika* (prophylaxis), ‘inviting’ them to the KGB’s offices for

a so-called ‘chat,’ intimidating them into confessing, and releasing them when they promised to reform,” Cohn says.

His project is a book-length study of *profilaktika* in the USSR’s Baltic republics, where opposition to Soviet Communism was strongest.

Film Studies Professor Wins Fellowship

Geller will study at Yale’s Whitney humanities Center.



Theresa Geller, associate professor of film theory and history in the English department, has received an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Mid-Career Fellowship entitled “Thinking the Humanities in the 21st Century” at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University for the 2015–16 academic year.

According to Yale, the fellowship is directed toward faculty at four-year liberal arts colleges who have received tenure within the past five years.

During Geller’s research year, she will work on a book-length project titled *Modes of Entrustment*, which will examine affect and intersubjectivity in contemporary queer film and media.

“As someone in the rare position of teaching film studies as humanities, I have been compelled to think through the ways media model humanistic inquiry,” Geller says.

A Prairie Publishing Venture

Alumni share expertise with students.

Grinnell students are helping launch an online journal at the College while also experiencing what it’s like to be entrepreneurs.

The interdisciplinary journal, *Rootstalk*, focuses on the prairie — the ecosystem and the region as a whole, including its architecture, art, and native people as well as fiction, poetry, and multimedia. The journal launched this spring.

Neither **Jon Andelson ’70**, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Prairie Studies, nor **Mark Baechtel**, director of forensic activities, had ever started a journal before. But they thought learning how to do it would make a compelling class.

“This is a great project to approach teaching entrepreneurship,” Andelson says. He and Baechtel developed two courses, Interdisciplinary Publishing I and II, to give students hands-on experience building an online journal from the ground up.

They invited several alumni with significant periodical

publishing experience to advise the class. Alumni consultants include:

- **Jeremy “Sequoia” Nagamatsu ’04**, starting a journal, editorial processes
- **Dan Weeks ’80**, editorial processes, market research, and sustainability
- **Alice Rogoff ’71**, editorial processes
- **Mike Ellis ’89**, social media as part of a journal operation marketing plan
- **Jeff Dickey-Chasins ’81**, editorial policies and methods, startup, market research
- **Priscilla McGeehon ’81**, editorial processes
- **Sarah Eagan Anderson ’98**, Web design

“If we were trying to behave like content experts [in developing a journal], we would have become frauds,” Baechtel says. “But we had an enormous field of alumni experts who could lead students.”

During the fall semester, 16 students helped with the



planning, audience research, and editorial structure.

“The second semester was about implementation,” Andelson says. “Students decided what content to put in, what the website format would be, and how to promote it.”

“It’s interesting how Mark and Jon put so many decisions on us,” **Ajuna Kyaruzi ’17** says. She was one of eight students working on implementation during the spring semester.

The journal published its first issue in May and included:

An essay by Iowa’s poet laureate, Mary Swander, about

an Amish friend building a bell tower.

An article by University of Missouri agricultural economist John Ikerd on the problems of industrial agriculture.

A reminiscence of his grandmother by Grinnell area farmer Howard McDonough, who restores carousels.

“We aim to have a diversity of voices represented in the journal,” Baechtel says, “including voices of people one normally wouldn’t expect to see in print.”

Read the online journal at prairiejournal.grinnell.edu

Alumna Pledges \$4 Million to Start Global Learning Program

Gift provides students unique learning opportunities through course-embedded travel.

Susan Holden McCurry '71 has pledged \$4 million to Grinnell College to establish the Global Learning Program (GLP). A portion of her gift will come from the Roland and Ruby Holden Foundation, her family's foundation.

"Susan McCurry's generous gift combines her dedication to Grinnell College with the vision and foresight to advance our mission in strategic fashion," says Grinnell President **Raynard S. Kington**. "The Global Learning Program will provide students at all levels and in all academic departments with opportunities to gain global competence and



leadership in ways that distinguish Grinnell from our peers."

The program will have three core components — GLP tutorials, GLP-designated courses, and GLP-scholars fellowships. Kington adds, "The program will strengthen the international dimension of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, as well as the Grinnell faculty's international knowledge."

Kington emphasizes that GLP tutorials particularly reflect McCurry's desire to create global study opportunities for first-year students. Under the GLP tutorial program, 25 first-year students will participate in interdisciplinary tutorials that include a four-week,

multicountry travel component for comparative studies.

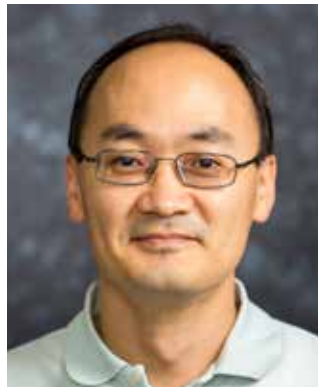
"The necessary critical thinking and inquiry-based learning disciplines from GLP tutorials will prepare students for the four-week travel component," says Susan McCurry. "We expect the travel experience to influence each student's course of studies for the next three years at Grinnell and beyond. The opportunity to foster interest in internships abroad as well as future careers may develop from the Global Learning Program. We envision many lifelong benefits from GLP and are enthusiastic about

Faculty Tenure and Promotions

Newly tenured faculty:



Vance Byrd, German



Jee-Weon Cha, Music



Edward Cohn, History*



Bradley Graham, Economics



Joseph Mileti, Mathematics and Statistics



Joseph Neisser, Philosophy



Mirzam Perez, Spanish



Christopher Ralston, Psychology

being part of launching this international program.”

The program will be directed by the Center for International Studies (CIS), in cooperation with the dean of the College and individual academic departments. It will be staged over a 10-year period. Faculty members are building the architecture for classes to begin next spring.

“This outstanding gift puts Grinnell in the forefront of international education,” says **David Harrison**, CIS interim director. “By permitting Grinnell faculty to take students on course-embedded trips to multiple sites

outside of the United States, the Global Learning Program provides a set of learning opportunities that no other liberal arts college can offer. Simply put, the gift liberates the creative energy of faculty and students alike to make the world their classroom.”

In 1978, after several years in early childhood education, McCurry joined the family business as chief financial officer of Holden’s Foundation Seeds Inc., headquartered in Williamsburg, Iowa.

“Our parents had a long history of international business relationships and travel. All of

our family benefited from their experiences and knowledge,” McCurry says. “They instilled the value of insight gained from international site exposure. We believe the travel component of the GLP will offer a worldwide learning laboratory for students.”

McCurry was elected to the Grinnell College Board of Trustees in 2003. She also serves as a board member for the Holden Family Foundation, Highland Ridge Retirement Community, and the University of Iowa Cancer Advisory Board. She is also a trustee at the Naples Children and Education Foundation in Florida.

“We are extremely grateful for Susan McCurry’s investment in the future of Grinnell College,” says **Shane Jacobson**, vice president for development and alumni relations. “It is a demonstration of philanthropic leadership that aligns perfectly with the core values of the College.”

– Denton Ketels



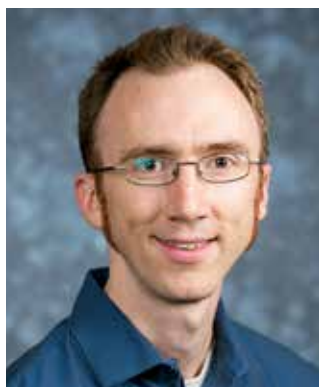
Albert Lacson, History



Deborah Michaels, Education



Andrea Tracy '99, Psychology



Jerod Weinman, Computer Science

Promoted to full professor:

- **Jenny Anger**, Art and Art History
- **Yvette Aparicio**, Spanish
- **Karla Erickson**, Sociology
- **Christopher French**, Mathematics and Statistics
- **Astrid Henry**, English and Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies; Louise R. Noun Professor of Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies
- **Shonda Kuiper**, Mathematics and Statistics
- **Eric McIntyre**, Music
- **Vida Praitis**, Biology
- **Karen Shuman**, Mathematics and Statistics
- **Maria Tapias**, Anthropology
- **Sujeev Wickramasekara**, Physics

Moving to senior faculty status**:

- **Alan Schrift**, Philosophy
- **Irene “Tinker” Powell**, Economics***
- **Janet Seiz**, Economics
- **Eliza Willis**, Political Science

Moving to emeritus status:

- **Kent McClelland**, Sociology
- **Edward Phillips**, Classics

* Cohn was also promoted to associate professor.

** Senior faculty status recognizes those faculty members who are released from regular, full-time teaching obligations to pursue scholarly and professional activities associated with the College.

*** Powell was also promoted to full professor.



William Hogarth, *Strolling Actresses Dressing in a Barn, 1738*, engraving and etching. Falconer Gallery, Grinnell College Art Collection, Marie-Louise and Samuel R. Rosenthal Fund.

At the FAULCONER GALLERY



Against Reason: Anti/Enlightenment Prints by Callot, Hogarth, Piranesi, and Goya

Through Aug. 2, 2015

This exhibition of art from the College's permanent collection explores the darker side of the Enlightenment by asking, among other things, what are the dangers of secularism, nationalism, and a scientific method that dismisses rather than exalts the qualities that make us both human and humane? This pan-European exhibition includes works by Jacques Callot, William Hogarth, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, and Francisco Goya. The exhibition was curated by students Timothy McCall '15, Maria Shevelkina '15, Dana Sly '15, Emma Vale '15, Elizabeth Allen '16, Mai Pham '16, and Hannah Storch '16, who wrote the catalog during the fall 2014 exhibition seminar under the direction of J. Vanessa Lyon, assistant professor of art history.

This article is part of our ongoing series about Grinnell College's finances. In fall 2015, the Grinnell College Board of Trustees will vote on whether to continue the College's need-blind admission policy. The endowment, student revenue, and philanthropy are the College's main sources of revenue.



Scarlet & Give Back Day huge Success

Challenges and social media drive strong participation.

A special one-day giving event on March 31 invited all Grinnellians and friends of Grinnell to show their support for the College.

"We wanted to have a fun day and a fun way to energize people about giving. It was important for us to connect people back to the College," says Mae Turley, director of annual giving.

About noon that day, Daniel '77 and Patricia Jipp Finkelman '80 issued a giving challenge. For each new donor that day, they donated a \$250 match.

"Thanks to Dan and Patricia, it started picking up steam in the afternoon," Turley says.

The challenge was posted on social media and promoted on Everyday Classnotes, a private Facebook group of Grinnell alumni.

Near 5 p.m. CDT, the Finkelmans issued a new challenge and upped their match to \$500 per donor.

"It was an incredible day for Grinnellians. We connected with new donors and strengthened ties with all of our supporters," Turley says.

Alumni Giving by Decade

Decade	Number of Donors
2010s	201
2000s	65
1990s	315
1980s	191
1970s	116
1960s	77
1950s	22
1940s	1
Total	1,388

Open to Interpretation

Through Aug. 2, 2015

Curated by **Tilly Woodward**, curator of academic and community outreach, and **Lesley Wright**, director of the Faulconer Gallery.

The Faulconer Gallery collection is filled with intriguing and curious works of art, which can be enjoyed or interpreted in many different ways. This summer exhibition brings together a range of works and asks visitors to provide comments and captions; selections of comments will be shared for others to enjoy and ponder.

Summer and Fall

Please note that we will be closed to repaint the gallery from top to bottom from August 3 through September 17, reopening on September 18 with *Start by Asking Questions: Contemporary Art from the Faulconer and Rachofsky Collections*, Dallas.



Enrique Chagoya, *Illegal Alien's Guide to Existentialism or My Private Border Patrol*, 2007, acrylic, water-based oils, and pastel on canvas. Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College Art Collection, Marie-Louise and Samuel R. Rosenthal Fund.

More highly Qualified Applicants

Grinnell becoming more selective.

Not only did the total number of applicants go up again for 2015-16 — 6,414 students applied, a 6 percent increase from last year — but the students' academic qualifications were also stronger.

One measure of academic quality is student test scores. The median SAT score of the students who will enroll in the fall went up 40 points from 1,380 to 1,420. It was “a colossal increase in one year,” says **Greg Sneed**, director of admission.

Another measure is class rank. Of those who plan to enroll this year, 80 percent are in the top 10 percent of their class, compared to 69 percent last year.

Sneed believes the higher number of highly qualified applicants suggests that Grinnell is “well known and on the rise.”

Sneed says that many factors are likely in play, but he attributes the increased recognition in part to Grinnell's new identity program, funded by a gift from **Steve Holtze '68** and **Elizabeth Alexander Holtze '68**. The

program went into effect this year and included a new website and publications from the Office of Admission.

“We've found different ways to reach out and connect,” Sneed says. One small example is the personalized Venn diagrams that each admitted student received to show them how they'd fit into the individualized approach to education at Grinnell.

The Office of Admission also increased its fly-in program this spring for admitted students who are underrepresented, low-income, and/or first-generation students. “Bringing students to campus who otherwise would not be able to make it allows us the chance to show them firsthand all of the benefits of a Grinnell education,” Sneed says.

Only about a quarter of the applicant pool was admitted — the lowest admission rate ever. Among that group, 29 percent have decided to attend Grinnell.

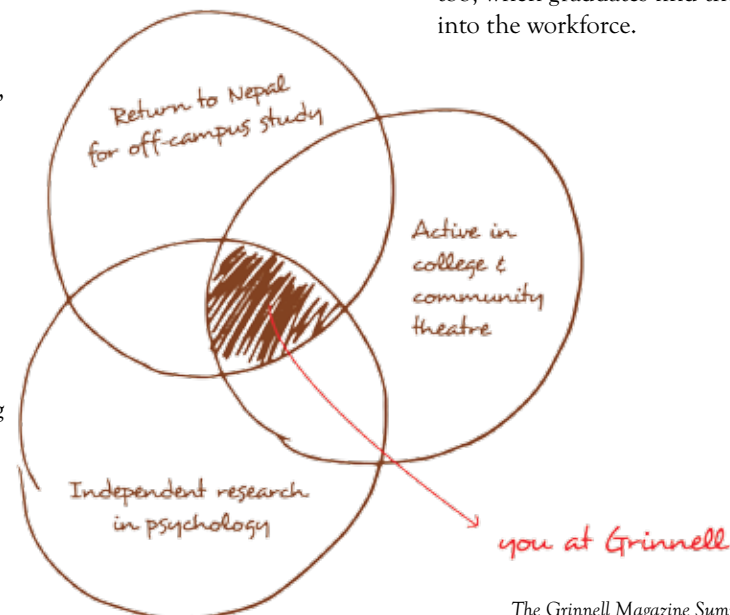
“Having more qualified applicants gives us more flexibility

in the admission process,” Sneed says. “When we have a larger, broader, more diverse, more academically talented applicant pool, it gives us the flexibility to admit more students from different backgrounds, locations, and socioeconomic statuses.

“The value of diversity on a college campus is multifaceted,” Sneed says. “Part of the education students receive in college comes

from the classroom. However, just as much learning occurs outside of the classroom in the residential environment. In both settings, learning for everyone is enhanced by being surrounded with others from different backgrounds who have different world views than you.”

Learning to get along with people from such varied backgrounds is a big plus not only while at Grinnell, but afterward too, when graduates find their way into the workforce.



Trustees Elect New Leader and Members

Patricia Jipp Finkelman '80 new chair.



Patricia Jipp Finkelman '80

Finkelman was elected chair of the Grinnell College Board of Trustees at its May 2015 meeting. She's been a member of the board since 1998 and a life trustee since 2014. She was a member of the Grinnell College Alumni Council from 1991-98, serving as president in 1997-98.

Finkelman earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Grinnell. In 1987 she received an M.B.A. from Yale School of Management.

A former health care policy and reimbursement consultant, Finkelman is an active community volunteer in central Ohio. She serves as the president of the Granville Community Foundation and is a trustee of both the Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts and Temple Israel in Columbus, Ohio.



David Maxwell '66

Maxwell retires this summer as president of Drake University, a position he has held since 1999; he was also a professor of literature there. He was director of the National Foreign Language Center in Washington, D.C., from 1993 to 1999, after serving as president of Whitman College from 1989 to 1993. Previously, Maxwell served as dean of undergraduate studies at Tufts University from 1981 to 1989 and was a faculty member in Russian language and literature there from 1971 to 1989.

Born in New York City, Maxwell earned his bachelor's degree from Grinnell in Russian area studies. He received his master's and doctoral degrees in Slavic languages and literatures from Brown University, in 1968 and 1974, respectively. He will begin his service on the Grinnell board in the fall of 2016.

Expanding the Use of Digital Technology in the humanities

Grinnell College, University of Iowa join forces to win \$1.6 million grant.

Grinnell College and the University of Iowa have received a \$1.6 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop humanities-centered collaborations that expand the use of digital technology among faculty and students.

This is the first time the Mellon Foundation has supported a collaborative digital project between a private liberal arts college and a public research university — institutions with different missions and strengths.

The project, titled "Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry," will support increased integration of digital resources into the undergraduate curriculum at Grinnell and the University of Iowa over four years.

"This grant will enable us to build on the digital projects already under way at both schools to establish new communities of thought and practice," says **Erik Simpson**, professor of English and principal investigator for the grant at Grinnell. "Teams involving faculty,

staff, students, and community partners will be able to use digital tools to produce new forms of analysis, creativity, and critique that are fundamental to our disciplines."

Through this initiative, faculty members in the humanities will build their digital skills, develop innovative new courses, and collaborate with students on ambitious digital projects and research programs.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for faculty to bring new, innovative approaches into their teaching and scholarship. The benefits for students will be transformative as well," says **Michael Latham**, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College. "As they use new technological resources to study the humanities, they will also develop greater digital literacy, gain valuable skills in collaborative writing and research, and create knowledge for broader public audiences. Those experiences will serve them well throughout their professional lives."

Grinnell students already are



developing digital literacy through research projects such as Mapping the Global Renaissance. Directed by Assistant Professor of English **James Lee**, this project applies "big data" techniques — natural language-processing algorithms, data mining, topic modeling, and mapping — to examine 50,000

early modern texts. By using these techniques to analyze early modern England's representations of different people and their geographical contexts around the world, students acquire a better understanding of how race and racial differences were understood at that time.



Michael Kahn '76

Kahn is a senior managing director at TIAA-CREF, a national financial services organization and the leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical, and cultural fields. Kahn serves on the boards of Kaspick & Co. and TIAA Charitable. He has worked on community outreach efforts for several nonprofit organizations including Wellstone Action and the Long Island Progressive Coalition.

He has sponsored more than 40 summer internships for Grinnell College students while mentoring countless other Grinnell students and young alumni. He has also actively supported the College's efforts to engage other alumni in the New York City area.

Kahn has a bachelor's degree in music from Grinnell. He is married to **Virginia Munger Kahn '76**. His service begins this fall.



Ed Senn '79

Elected Alumni Council president for 2015-16, Senn is an ex-officio trustee. He has served on the council since 2010 and has volunteered for Grinnell in many different ways, including as a GrinnellLink volunteer hosting interns, a GRASP volunteer, and on his class committee. In 2013 Senn established the Katie Brown Anderson '49 and Mary Lou Brown '56 Experiential Learning Endowed Fund to honor two sisters and longtime Grinnell staff members and to help recruit the best

students and support them as they prepare to graduate. Previously he established the Jenny Erickson Endowed Scholarship and the John and Emily Pfitsch Scholarship funds.

After earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Grinnell, Senn went into politics. He is now Verizon Communications vice president of state government relations.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Major activities to be funded by the grant include:

- Faculty development initiatives, such as summer institutes, collaborative projects between Grinnell and Iowa faculty, and training in digital liberal arts techniques.

- Undergraduate curricular development initiatives, such as adding new digital liberal arts courses or course modules, developing courses that bridge the two institutions, and supporting student-faculty collaborations.
- Engagement with the broader digital liberal arts community, including a conference to be held at the University of Iowa in 2018, support for conference travel to share exemplary digital projects and learn from the work of others, and a Web presence for the project that will feature an online inventory of digital projects.
- Support for library and instructional technology faculty and staff members who help make digital projects possible, including professional development funds as well as funding for software, digitization, and other research expenses.

– Lisa Lacher

Yik Yak Blocked from College Servers

Social media app having corrosive influence .

In light of continuing incidents and personal attacks on the social media app Yik Yak – including instances of racism, victim-blaming, and anonymous allegations – Information Technology Services permanently blocked the app from all College servers on May 5. Users are unable to access Yik Yak via College Wi-Fi or networked devices.

Jim Reische, vice president for communications, and **Angela Voos**, Title IX coordinator, initiated the block after discussions with **President Raynard S. Kington**, **Michael Latham**, dean of the College, and **Dennis Reilly**, Grinnell police chief. The action was taken in response to concerns from students, faculty, and staff about the harm being done to individual students through anonymous attacks.

The College does not have the power to block users from accessing Yik Yak via their

personal mobile networks. Nor will blocking Yik Yak fix the underlying problem of repeated hateful behavior. But as an important first step the College will no longer support access to an app that has shown itself to have a corrosive influence on the Grinnell campus and which facilitated damaging attacks on members of the Grinnell community.

“We designed the block in a way that allows individuals the personal freedom to continue using the app if they choose to do so,” Reische says. “No Grinnellian is being prevented from speaking their mind. The College, and I personally, defend everyone’s right to free speech. But we also have an obligation to care for students and promote an environment in which all can succeed and thrive academically and personally.”

2015 honorary Degree Recipients

Commencement recognizes climate-change activist, educators, and business leader.

During its 2015 Commencement exercises, Grinnell College conferred honorary degrees upon people involved in environmentalism, science, education, and business.

This year's Commencement speaker was **Bill McKibben**, one of the nation's most outspoken activists on global warming. He has written extensively about climate change, alternative energy, and genetic engineering. His 2006 book, *The End of Nature*, is considered to be the first book about climate change written for a general audience. His more recent works address social movements, consumerism, and shortcomings of the growth economy. He received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Mary Seely, a visionary scientist and teacher, served as director of the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia for 16 years and has received numerous awards for her work on desert research and conservation. Her passion for fostering international cooperation has been critical to the establishment and continued success of the Grinnell Corps program in Namibia. She received an honorary doctor of science degree.

Nominated for an honorary doctor of social studies degree by **Rebecca Garner '15**, **Kit Abel Hawkins** is founder and director of the

Arbor School of Arts and Sciences, a private K–8 school in Tualatin, Ore. She also established the Arbor Center for Teaching, a two-year apprenticeship program in partnership with Marylhurst University in Oregon for six people to receive their masters of arts degrees in teaching.

Penny Bender Sebring '64 is a senior research associate at the University of Chicago and co-director of the Consortium of Chicago School Research. Sebring is widely published on a variety of topics including urban education, course-taking patterns, and school leadership and is a life trustee of Grinnell College. She received an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Grinnell conferred an honorary doctor of laws degree to Sebring's husband **Charles Lewis**, chairman of the Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation and managing general partner of Coach House Capital. Lewis and Sebring (for whom Sebring-Lewis Hall in Bucksbaum Center for the Arts is named) helped make possible the Grinnell Careers in Education Professions program, which is designed to help students think about the long-term possibilities in the field.



Commencement Experienced Via Technology

Music helped 2015 graduate recover from brain tumor, earn degree.

Alexis "Lexy" Greenwell '15 is thrilled to be alive, thanks to the power of music.

The 22-year-old singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and beatboxer says music played a key role in helping her recover from several brain hemorrhages and two brain surgeries that threatened her life.

"Music definitely helped save me. It was a huge part of my healing process," Greenwell says. She recovered from both surgeries by singing, rapping, and beatboxing while supplementing her intense neurological rehabilitation by playing the guitar and drums. Greenwell, who completed her College courses via interactive technology, graduated from Grinnell with a bachelor's degree in computer science and technology studies.

For the time being, Greenwell needs to remain close to her medical team in the Denver area. So instead of attending commencement exercises, she

actively participated via technology at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., where she received her neurorehabilitation.

With family, friends, and her medical team at Craig, Greenwell, sporting a cap and gown, viewed a live stream of the ceremony. **Janet Davis**, associate professor of computer science and Greenwell's faculty adviser, walked across the stage in Greenwell's place, holding an iPhone connected to Greenwell's laptop in Englewood via FaceTime. Greenwell saw the view from the stage and shared in the experience as Grinnell College **President Raynard S. Kington** conveyed his congratulations.

Shortly after Davis left the stage, **Elizabeth Alexander Holtze '68** and **Steve Holtze '68**, a Grinnell College trustee, presented Greenwell with her diploma at Craig Hospital in Englewood.

"With her sparkling personality and can-do attitude, Lexy has always been a pleasure



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Honorary degree recipients (left to right): **Charles Lewis, Mary Seely, Penny Bender Sebring '64, Bill McKibben, and Kit Abel Hawkins.**

to teach and advise,” Davis says. “She has shown remarkable determination in the face of adversity. Lexy has worked closely with faculty, staff, and classmates to participate fully in all of her classes – including a team software development project – despite being far away from Grinnell.”

Following graduation, Greenwell will work remotely as a summer intern for a music data analytics firm. She aims to combine her love of music and technology to become a music executive. She also plans to write a book about her experiences in hopes of inspiring others.

“It takes some time when you go through something like this to get yourself to a place where you feel like you can move forward,” she says, adding with a smile, “My future is wide open, and I’m so grateful for the amazing life I have.”

– Lisa Lacher



Photo by Justin Hayworth



Photos by Evan Semón



Grinnellians Wanted

Get Published, Win a T-Shirt

“Prompted” is a new department planned for the redesigned *Grinnell Magazine*, based on ideas from the alumni communications survey. For each issue, the magazine staff will provide a writing prompt, including a word limit, and invite Grinnell alumni and friends to submit a response by the deadline. For every “Prompted” piece we publish, we’ll send the writer a T-shirt that says, “I was published in *The Grinnell Magazine*.”

This issue’s prompt: Grinnellians run into each other in unusual places and circumstances. In no more than 200 words, describe how you randomly met a fellow Grinnellian, one you’d never met before. Where did you meet? How did it happen? How did you know the person was a Grinnellian? Bonus points for a good photo of the meeting submitted with the ministory. Submit your story by Aug. 1 for the fall issue to magazine@grinnell.edu with “Grinnell connection” in the subject line.

Alumni Share Views of College’s Communications

Results of alumni communications survey are helping shape the magazine.

During March and April, the College conducted an online survey of alumni to learn more about their reading habits related to *The Grinnell Magazine*, class letters, email communications, social media, and reading online publications in general. This was a prelude to a redesign of the print magazine, which will debut this fall or winter, and development of a robust online version.

People were contacted by email with a link to an online survey. To ensure a balanced cross section of alumni, the College also mailed a postcard to 750 people who didn’t have an email address on file, inviting them to participate in the online survey or request a printed survey.

The survey garnered 2,213 responses from 6,937 valid recipients, a response rate of 31.9 percent. “Anything over 30 is considered really good by online survey standards,” says Carlie VanWilligen, associate director of analytic support and institutional research.

As a small incentive to participate, three respondents’ names were drawn at random to receive \$50 gift cards for the campus bookstore. They are **Janet Deyo Pugh ’68**, Madison, Wis.; **Charlene Tung ’92**, Richmond, Calif.; and **Mitch Herz ’05**, Ann Arbor, Mich.

here are a few of the results:

The vast majority of respondents, 79 percent, prefer to read magazines in print.

However, if *The Grinnell Magazine* were available in an attractive, easy-to-read format online, 35 percent said they would read it in that space and 44 percent said maybe they would.

The questions about reading online made some people believe the College will cease to publish its print version. “We will continue to publish the print edition,” says Jim Reische, vice president of communications. “This is about providing our readers with options. Publishing both print and online editions will be a little more work

for the College, but we believe it’s worth it to give our alums a choice in how they want to connect with their college.”

The new online version, which is in development, will allow readers to comment on articles and share stories through social media. It will also enable the Communications staff to publish more photos and video.

To get a sense of what readers find most interesting about the existing content, the survey asked respondents to mark all stories/sections they recalled reading or skimming. For both the Fall and Winter 2014 issues, “Classnotes” and “Letters to the Editor” were the most popular. Feature stories that garnered the most votes were “Campus Myth Busters” in the winter issue and “Grinnell in World War I” in the fall. The winter Student Musings essay, “Beyond Admission,” also earned significant votes, as did the fall feature “Posse Scholars Enhance Campus, Leave Legacy of Leadership and Service.”

The survey also solicited ideas and suggestions for future stories or topics for the magazine, and Grinnellians did not disappoint. There were hundreds of comments in this section of the survey.

“We appreciate the variety of ideas we received,” says Jim Powers, director of communications. “It’s interesting to see trends. The comments also help us set editorial priorities.”

Many readers asked for more stories about regular alumni, alumni are doing interesting things but aren’t necessarily well known.

Readers also want to know more about how Grinnell is handling sexual assaults on campus and the Title IX cases mentioned in a *Huffington Post* article in March.

The editorial staff is mining these ideas for future stories and directions for the magazine’s redesign — its content and its look and feel. To submit story ideas anytime, email the editor at magazine@grinnell.edu.



Live in Iowa?

Show your GC pride on your vehicle.

Grinnell College specialty license plates are now available through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Personalized license plates may consist of up to seven characters. **President Raynard S. Kington** created “GCPRIDE” for one of his vehicles.

TEDxGrinnell “Speak Out!”

Seven alumni share their expertise.

A sold-out TEDxGrinnell conference Feb. 21 featured seven notable Grinnell College alumni. Talks addressed a variety of issues on the theme “Speak Out!” – from children learning to speak to speaking out against injustice.

“TEDx is not a place for people to learn everything there is to know about physics or art history,” says **Meghna Usharani Ravishankar ’17**, organizer of TEDxGrinnell. “It’s a place for self-discovery and curiosity, encouraging people to challenge preconceived notions and push themselves out of their intellectual comfort zones.”

Presenters included:

- **Lester Alemán ’07**, trainer and program director for the Posse Foundation in Los Angeles;
- **Zander Cannon ’95**, comic-book writer and artist;
- **April Dobbins ’99**, filmmaker and recipient of the S. J. Weiler Fund Award;

- **Emma Kelty-Stephen ’04**, assistant professor of psychology at Grinnell, specializing in children’s language development;
- **Wadzi Motsi ’12**, analyst at Clinton Health Access Initiative in Zimbabwe;
- **Tarell “Ahmed” Rodgers ’93**, imam and teacher who speaks on the role of spirituality in the world; and
- **Joshua Tepfer ’97**, assistant clinical professor at Northwestern University School of Law and co-director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth.

Kathy Clemons ’95 coached the speakers. Their presentations were captured on video and may be viewed at bit.ly/1FqfilR.

TEDx conferences, which are self-organized events operating under license from TED, are local events that bring people together to share “ideas worth spreading.” The conferences emulate the TED conference, an annual



Photos by John Brady '16

April Dobbins ’99 and **Zander Cannon ’95** were two of the alumni presenters.

gathering of leaders in technology, entertainment, and design.

TEDxGrinnell was sponsored by Grinnell College and the Donald L. Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership.





Photo by Andy Kropp '98

Take Manhattan

*They came, they saw, they left inspired
by alumni – and alumni were inspired by them.*

Twenty Grinnell students spent spring break in the Big Apple with help from their friends in the Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights and from alumni who shared their career insights into those chosen fields.

Nearly 200 alumni interacted with the current students. Some were selected by the Rosenfield Program to host students in their workplaces, while more alumni greeted the students at networking events.

All came away with an enriching experience.

For **Roni Finkelstein '15**, a history major from New Jersey, trip leader, and member of the Rosenfield Program committee, her Grinnell-earned skills came to life. “I was inspired by the myriad ways that Grinnell alumni achieve success once they graduate. Very few of the alums we spoke with took a direct path to where they are now. As a senior, it was comforting to see how relevant the skills I gained at Grinnell are to so many different careers,” Finkelstein says.

For **Liyan Chen '12**, a reporter at *Forbes* and on-site tour host, the trip offered an opportunity to give back. “Students can benefit from our perspective about life after Grinnell and what it can be,” Chen says.

For **Sarah Purcell '92**, professor of history and director of the Rosenfield Program, the New York City tour far exceeded expectations. “Working with so many alums, collaborating with the Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS) and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations (DAR), and seeing so many students gain so much from the trip made the whole experience fantastic!”

The Rosenfield-CLS-DAR-sponsored tour was the third industry tour offered by the College. “What students walk away with from these tours is compelling – career advice, internship leads, enriching experiences, and networking opportunities,” says **Mark Peltz**, Daniel and Patricia Jipp Finkelman Dean, CLS.

The fast-paced weeklong tour began at New York University’s Stern School of Business, hosted by **Sarah**



Photos by Don Pollard '81, top right photo by Andy Kropp '98

Labowitz '04, before moving on to the Council on Foreign Relations. That evening more than 150 Grinnell alumni and students met **President Raynard S. Kington** at the Rubin Museum of Art for one of Grinnell's largest New York City alumni events.

The following day, **Roberta Smith '69**, art critic at *The New York Times*, gave students behind-the-scenes access to reporters, some of whom had investigated brutality in the prison system. At Human Rights Watch, students heard from lawyers who litigate cases such as Guantanamo Bay detainees. **Leonard Kurz '75** hosted the group at the Center for Constitutional Rights, where alumni later joined the group for a dinner reception.

Luna Ranjit '00 welcomed students at Adhikaar, an organization she co-founded to fight for the rights of Nepali-speaking immigrants. At Episcopal Relief and Development, **Katie Mears '03** explained her role as director for U.S. disaster preparedness and response. Students met for dinner with the New York alumni planning committee, led by **Ahsan Rahim '11**. At the U.S. mission to the United Nations, students met foreign service officer **Liz Lee '99** and later toured the U.N. General Assembly. At *Forbes*, Chen and colleagues talked with Grinnellians about the magazine's global expansion. That evening, the group was hosted by **Rob Neill '91** at The Neo-Futurists, an experimental theatre company where he is managing director.

"The biggest impact for students is the opportunity to connect with alumni in their workplaces, in areas students are interested in; for alumni, it's a reason to reconnect with the College, share their knowledge and influence future leaders," says **Nate Dobbels**, assistant director of alumni relations for career programs.

"Seeing the numbers of business cards exchanged and hearing students say 'I want to do that' shows the impact alumni can have. It's a much deeper connection once they meet."

When Ranjit introduced the students to Adhikaar, she said the nonprofit organization "started and grew with direct and indirect support from Grinnell. The first contribution was a \$500 check from Professor **Mark Montgomery** (economics). I also received the Wall Service Award that allowed Adhikaar to expand."

Hearing Ranjit's Adhikaar experience was the most memorable part of the trip for **Anesu Gamanya '17**. The economics major from Harare, Zimbabwe, left inspired by "the relationships that go beyond Grinnell."

The New York trip was deemed such a success that the Rosenfield Program will sponsor a tour next spring break to Washington, D.C., with a policymaking and public affairs focus. CLS, DAR, and the Donald L. Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership are planning a tour to New York City, focusing on data, for the fall break.

- Cindy Deppe

Some of our alumni who generously shared of their talent were Sarah Labowitz '04, top left; and Roberta Smith '69, top right.

The Most Precious Commodity on Earth

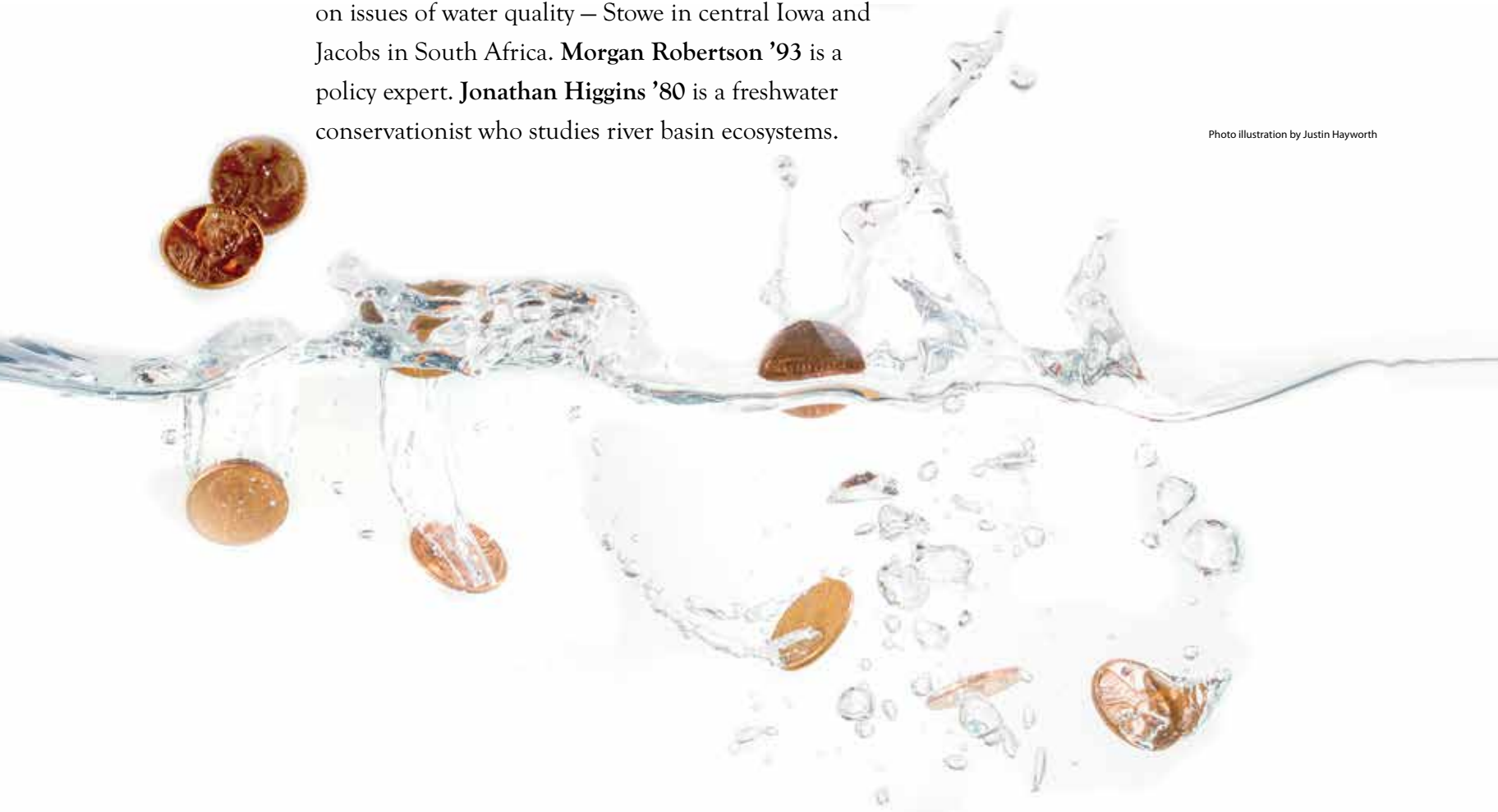
Unique perspectives
of Grinnell alumni on
managing the world's water.

by Denton Ketels

We turn on the tap to make coffee, take a shower, or drench the begonias. We not only expect water to *be there*, in the United States we take for granted it will be clean, plentiful, and cheap. Fortunately for us, there are people like the four Grinnell alumni profiled here who spend every day thinking about water – what's in it, how it's used, where it comes from, where it goes, how it moves, what it costs – and generally regarding it for what it is: the most precious commodity on earth.

Two alumni, **Bill Stowe '81** and **Inga Jacobs '04**, work on issues of water quality – Stowe in central Iowa and Jacobs in South Africa. **Morgan Robertson '93** is a policy expert. **Jonathan Higgins '80** is a freshwater conservationist who studies river basin ecosystems.

Photo illustration by Justin Hayworth



Bill Stowe '81: An Iowa Fight

Agriculture has such huge economic and political clout in Iowa that it is fair to say that no one would choose to pick a fight with it unless there was a very good reason. Stowe believes there is a good reason, and it is water.

Stowe, a labor lawyer with a master's degree in engineering, is no shrinking violet when it comes to advocacy, having worked at times for big oil, big steel, and utility companies. More recently, he spent 15 years leading public works for the city of Des Moines. In that capacity his water concerns ranged from wastewater treatment to managing risk for a flood-prone city at the southern end of the geological formation known as the Des Moines lobe.

In September 2012, Stowe moved from public works to become CEO and general manager of Des Moines Water Works (DMWW), an independent municipal utility that pumps 17 billion gallons annually to customers in and around the city of Des Moines.

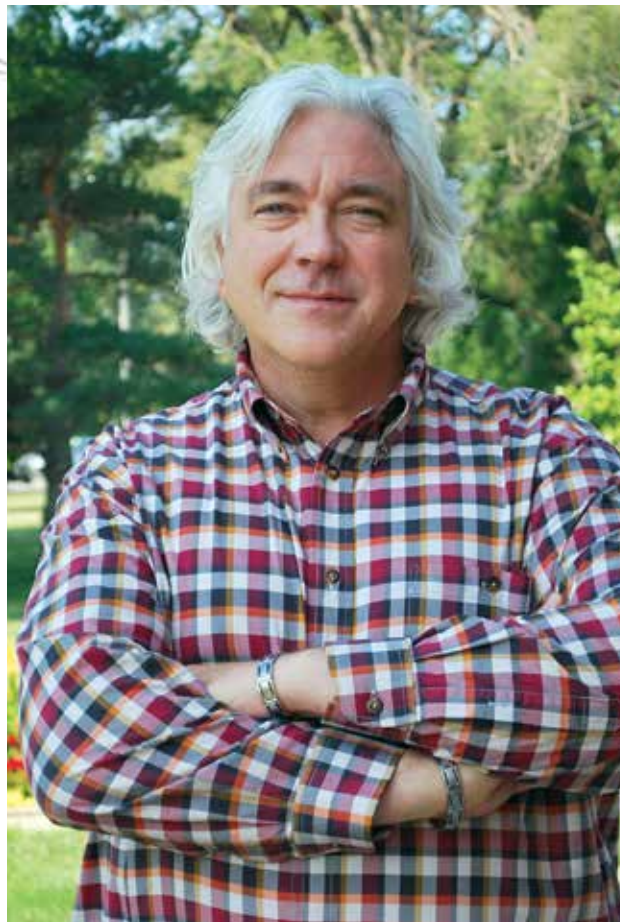
"I came to this job thinking that floods, droughts, and climate change issues would be a huge portion of it," Stowe says. "It didn't take me long to get clued in to the fact that source water *quality* is the largest single concern by far. It is a survival issue for this business."

Indeed, Stowe is on the front lines of a water quality battle that is front page news in Iowa almost every day. It may ultimately impact environmental policy across the nation. For the time being, the battle is being fought over the quality of water that arrives in Des Moines via the Raccoon River watershed.

According to Stowe, nitrate concentrations are regularly present at three- to seven-times the permissible levels in the rivers from which DMWW draws its water. In order to provide its customers with nitrate-safe product that meets the Environmental Protection Agency standard of 10 milligrams per liter, the utility operated its nitrate removal system for 97 consecutive days this winter at a cost of well over half a million dollars.

"We expect to see this in the summer with planting and fertilization, but we should not see nitrates at this level in the winter," Stowe says. "That tells us there is a sea change of some kind happening." Stowe is worried about overburdening the plant's 25-year-old technology. "If we had a denitrification unit go offline for whatever reason, the drinking water that we deliver to half a million Iowans may not meet federal quality requirements. That would be a big problem for us, as well as a public health concern."

A new treatment system to handle the increased loads is projected to cost upward of \$100 million. Stowe and the DMWW trustees for whom he works contend that their ratepayers should not be on the hook for a problem over which they have no control. They are looking upstream for accountability.



"This may be a farm state, but we are not going to be casualties to industrial agriculture."

— Stowe

"Our raw water is coming from surface water sources that are heavily influenced by agriculture in this state," Stowe explains. "Factors like CAFOs [concentrated animal feeding operations], anhydrous ammonia, and monocrops in the 10,000-square-mile area that represent our watersheds are driving our water quality. Data indicate that our source waters are increasingly at risk. We are going to push back against the assumed policy mainstream that says industrial agriculture is the norm in Iowa."

The focus of DMWW's push is drainage districts, which are natural and artificial systems shared by landowners and managed by county boards of supervisors to move water away from cropland during times of "excess moisture." Iowa's laws specific to drainage districts were written a century ago. They presume drainage of overflow surface water from agricultural land to be "a public benefit and conducive to the public health, convenience, and welfare."

Stowe contends policy formulated in the 1890s gives "no thought to downstream impacts" of discharge from those districts into the state's waters, particularly in view of the fact that agricultural land use has expanded to cover 90 percent of the state. Furthermore, Stowe says, agricultural drainage districts are not subject to pollution regulations by which manufacturers and wastewater treatment plants must abide.

“Reality is a lot more complicated than theory, but compliance with normative principles provides a carrot, whereas international laws and regulations provide more of a stick. Some countries like carrots more than sticks.”

— Jacobs

“If I have a metal processing plant, I cannot put anything into the waters of the state without a permit,” Stowe says. “But if I’m part of a drainage district, I can put in whatever, and it comes out of that pipe and goes into the river completely unregulated. That pipe is regulated, this one isn’t. What’s the policy basis for that? There’s no good reason for it, especially when ag folks know where 90 percent of the nitrogen problem in this state is coming from.”

Agricultural interests in Iowa favor voluntary measures to address nutrient pollution. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, a response to the call for 12 Mississippi River Basin states to partner in reducing hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, aims to cut nitrogen in Iowa’s waterways by 45 percent. Studies are under way, and distressed watersheds have been identified. But Stowe says the problem is here and now, and data prove the nutrient reduction strategy to be too little, too slow.

Meanwhile, county supervisors regard it as neither politically nor practically feasible under Iowa law to do anything but drain the land. That’s a position Stowe finds untenable, but understandable. “The problem in Iowa,” Stowe says, “is that we have taken the view that any federal legislation like the Clean Water Act by its very nature exempts agriculture, and so there are no consequences from it.”

In March, following a 60-day notice of intent, DMWW filed a lawsuit in federal court against the boards of supervisors in three counties to the north of Des Moines. Stowe explains, “There are three critical words in the Clean Water Act – agricultural stormwater discharge – that are exempted from regulation. The basic legal argument we’re making as scientists is that what we see coming out of these very sophisticated, plumbed farm fields is a pipe, and a pipe is a conveyance. It is a point source, just as in a storm sewer system.

“We’re pretty savvy on issues of groundwater versus surface water, and in our view drainage districts are not agricultural stormwater dischargers. They are actually groundwater dischargers,” Stowe says. “Our point is to prove in federal court that they are point source polluters and should be regulated wherever they discharge into the waters of the state.”

Formal court proceedings are in the discovery phase with little action expected until late summer. The court of public opinion, however, is in full song. Editorials alternately peg Stowe and the waterworks trustees as righteous crusaders or anti-ag reactionaries.

“I never thought I’d come over here and within three years be publicly criticizing the Farm Bureau and going into federal district court to sue drainage districts in northern Iowa,” Stowe says. “My role is to apply the right financial, scientific, and ethical principles to make the business run. And it is a business. We want to be here next year, the year after that, and 100 years from now.”



Inga Jacobs '04: Water Security Challenges

Jacobs, executive manager for business development, marketing, and communication for the South African Water Research Commission, says deteriorating water quality has become a global concern as the human populations grow, industrial and agricultural interests expand, and myriad environmental factors put the water cycle at risk.

“Poor water quality affects water quantity, as polluted water diminishes the volume of usable water within a given area,” Jacobs says. “According to the U.N., the most widespread water quality problem is eutrophication from the oversupply of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Only about 20 percent of nitrogen used in agricultural production is actually consumed as food, while the rest is lost to the environment. Lakes and reservoirs are especially vulnerable because of their complex dynamics, comparatively longer water residence times and their role as an integrating sink for pollutants from their drainage basins.”

Jacobs’ concerns illustrate that water issues related to nutrient pollution are the same in South Africa as in central Iowa, and bring the issue of food versus the environment full circle. “One of the biggest challenges lies



Morgan Robertson '93: Realities of Workable Policy

According to Robertson, associate professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, landmark pieces of environmental legislation passed between 1965 and 1980 — such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act — were designed to be aggressive yet limited at the same time.

“None of them promised to stop pollution period. Each of them includes some kind of provision or allowance for pollution to continue in a regulated way,” Robertson says. “So if you come to these major landmark pieces with the expectation that pollution is going to simply stop, then yes, you’re going to be disappointed, because the Clean Water Act contains provisions for allowing impacts to the waters of the United States to continue, even from point sources.

“What I try and tell my students is that in terms of point-source control of pollutants and slowing down or halting of the filling of wetlands, there have been remarkable successes,” Robertson says. Some of that success comes in the form of compensation sites to offset unavoidable pollution, usually a condition of receiving a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to impact water of the United States. While 30 years of debate have not settled the issue of whether such remedies are adequate, it’s worth noting that nearly 50,000 acres of wetland and stream compensation per year result from such requirements.

The idea of offsetting losses in exchange for exceeding pollution limitations is inherent in the culture of American environmental regulation, according to Robertson. “You can see it as a failure, but I have had it explained to me by people who were on the scene in the 1970s that if we had passed (landmark environmental laws) and provided no relief valve where there was incredible pressure to permit a certain amount of pollution, it would have guaranteed the overturning of these laws within about five to 10 years.

“So, it’s interesting to me that this is one of the things that really gets students interested but also kind of depressed,” Robertson says. “People who are in their college years tend to view the law as failed because it compromised the goal of environmental quality.”

“If you come to major landmark pieces (of environmental legislation) with the expectation that pollution is going to simply stop, then yes, you’re going to be disappointed.”

— Robertson

in curbing the effects that the agricultural sector has on global water systems, while ensuring that enough food is produced for a population that is expected to increase to nine billion by 2050,” Jacobs says.

The effects of personal care products and pharmaceuticals on humans and aquatic ecosystems also are a recurring theme. “Not much is known about their long-term impact,” Jacobs says, “although some are believed to imitate natural hormones in humans and other species. In South Africa, we’re currently doing a lot of research on the impact of medical waste in our rivers.”

Jacobs says that providing stable freshwater supplies is a concern for virtually every country in the world. She points to United Nations statistics that say one in three people today lives in a country with moderate to high water stress. By 2030, nearly half of the global population could be facing water scarcity, with demand exceeding supply by 40 percent. A country is considered to be water-stressed if the amount of renewable water in the country is less than 1,700 cubic feet per person, per year.

Given that demands on river basins worldwide will intensify as stakeholders with different priorities seek access to increasingly overstressed resources, Jacobs ranks water security as one of the greatest challenges that modern-day states will have to overcome.

“I don’t think (it’s) all we should be doing, but our work should be put in the context of sustaining the environment so that it’s good for people, it’s good for the economy.”

— Higgins

Jonathan Higgins ’80: An Integrated Approach

According to Higgins, director of conservation for The Nature Conservancy’s Great Rivers Program, the amount of hydropower produced around the globe is set to double in the next 20–30 years. Working upfront in an integrated, basin-wide planning approach to meet the needs of society and the environment, he says, is far more likely to foster long-term social and environmental viability than trying to deal with dams one at a time to mitigate impacts. In addition, once they are built in a given place, the opportunities for mitigation are often limited.

“Building dams in some places is really problematic,” Higgins explains. “We’ve looked at development scenarios for generating ‘X’ gigawatts of hydropower in some of these river basins over the next 30 years. There might be 40 dam sites that are approved for potential dam development, and probably half of those sites will be developed. Which half is really important, because certain arrangements would allow the majority of river basins to be connected and flow naturally. Done another way, you would completely disconnect major portions of the river and tributaries, and the fisheries would fall apart.”

In addition, displacement from reservoirs and downstream impacts from dams can uproot entire cultures that have depended on freshwater ecosystems for food and materials for centuries, Higgins says. “Those people are the silent majority of those impacted from dams, and there’s nobody fighting for them. After losing their fisheries, flood recession agriculture, and riparian grazing, they migrate to cities and contribute to urban poverty on a global scale.”

“Hydropower developers are concerned because it’s costing them a fortune to be thrown out of countries because of social unrest,” Higgins says. “Governments and developers can have enormous compensation costs, so it’s in their interest to be more environmentally and socially sustainable. The future costs of not taking that into account are prohibitive.”

Consequently, project financiers like the World Bank and international development banks ask Higgins and his partners to develop frameworks for environmental sustainability. Using computer scenarios to assess potential impacts to the freshwater landscape, licensing and planning agencies and developers can see what impacts may occur in the context of developing dams, concessions for forestry, mining, or agriculture.

Without such considerations, Higgins says, river functions and habitat quality can be highly altered. Floodplains can cease to function, fish and bird reproduction can be dramatically decreased or terminated, and sediment, temperature, and natural flow pulse regimes of a river can be affected for hundreds of miles downstream.

Currently, Higgins and his partners are working with government licensing agencies and dam



developers to influence how dams are built and operated globally in order to better sustain environmental processes and biodiversity.

“Those are the types of win-win situations we’re looking for,” Higgins says.

Whether he is working with source watersheds for sustaining municipal water supplies in Colombia, wetlands in the midwestern United States, or developing freshwater conservation strategies in China, Higgins says putting conservation priorities to work on a scale that actually makes a difference is the challenge of the day.

Society, he says, needs to make broader and longer-term decisions about water resource management.

“It goes well beyond buying land and establishing protected areas,” Higgins says. “You’ve got to make it something that is socially and economically beneficial to people. One of the corners that the Nature Conservancy has turned recently is to implement — where useful — the concept of ecosystems services, an integrated approach that includes both — biodiversity and the services that ecosystems provide that are important for people.

“I don’t think that’s all we should be doing, but our work should be put in the context of sustaining the environment so that it’s good for people, it’s good for the economy,” Higgins says. ■



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Liberal Arts in Prison

Innovative program offers a college education to those behind bars.

by Dana Boone

*Miles away from the distinguished halls of Grinnell College – behind
drab prison walls and electronic gates – an unlikely
cohort of students takes Grinnell courses.*

Since 2009, dozens of incarcerated students have experienced Grinnell College without ever setting foot on campus – through the First Year of College Program, a highly selective, intensive program that offers students the chance to earn up to 60 credits. Taught by storied Grinnell professors, incarcerated students have taken a range of courses from neuroscience to economics to classics.

The prison program receives funding from the College and also relies on support from alumni, parents, and friends. It operates at a time of burgeoning U.S. incarceration rates. Advocates agree the program exemplifies Grinnell's twin commitments to social justice and liberal arts education.

"Grinnell College is committed to providing excellent liberal arts education to exceptional students," says **Emily Guenther '07**, program director, who spearheaded the effort to offer college courses to inmates. "Our incarcerated students are extremely talented and dedicated to learning. Their commitment to education rededicates all of us to teaching and learning. This program affirms the value of the liberal arts for everyone who participates."

College-in-prison programs like Grinnell's have a demonstrated impact on recidivism rates. According to a

report from RAND Corp., a global research organization that develops solutions to public policy challenges, inmates who participate in correctional education programs had a 43 percent lower chance of returning to prison than those who did not.

None of the alumni of Grinnell's First Year of College Program have returned to prison.

"If every person had the opportunity to attend a program like this," says Michael Cosby, a former inmate at the Newton Correctional Facility, "I don't believe there would be so many prisons."

The former drug dealer and gang member is now a welder and community activist; he earned 23 college credits in the Grinnell program. He says his Grinnell education opened up a world of art, poetry, music, and math.

"It gave me an appreciation for the way the other half lives – that there is another half," says Cosby, who was released from Newton in 2012. "That you chose to be on this side of the tracks. It was an awakening."

The inmates' hunger for knowledge outpaces most students, volunteers say. More than 50 on-campus students volunteer as instructors, coordinators, and tutors in the not-for-credit program.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Sara Sanders, lecturer in history, taught Making History: 1968 Around the World at the Newton Correctional Facility.

“This is social activism, Grinnell culture, and generosity at work,” says **Cody Combs ’15**, a fourth-year program volunteer.

Last fall, more than 100 students attended volunteer information sessions Guenther held on campus. She had to turn away nearly half the students. Inside the prisons, inmates buzzed about the program. Only one-third of those who apply to the college program are accepted. Applicants write an essay and go through an interview with professors to gain admission. If they don’t make the cut, the inmates often study and try again. Many take student-taught classes in order to prepare. One in 10 men at the Newton prison participates in some Grinnell programming. About 15 men enroll in the First Year of College Program each semester.

Grinnell Inside

Courses taught inside the prisons are the same as those taught on Grinnell’s campus, with a few minor workarounds. College library staff developed a program that made the College catalog available to inmates who lack access to the Internet. Ten decommissioned computers were donated to the program for students and prison staff.

George Drake ’56, professor emeritus of history, has taught three courses at Newton since 2009, Basic Issues in European History; Making History: From

Europe to America; and Justice, Liberation, Crisis, and Leadership. Faculty who teach incarcerated students “don’t compromise” their standards and find the experience “intensely valuable,” he says.

“That speaks volumes about these guys and this program,” Drake told alumni and friends who gathered to learn about the program last fall in Des Moines, Iowa.

“The commitment they have to learning is intense,” Drake says. “And, it’s not easy for them. They all have jobs.”

All inmates are required to work at least part-time in prison, and many work fulltime.

Jason Darrah, 41, of Sioux City, Iowa, spent 24 years in Iowa prisons. He was released in 2013. Drake taught him while at Newton. Darrah earned eight credits and took the first two classes Grinnell offered for credit. He continued his college education after his release. When he visited Grinnell’s campus, he hugged Drake as a free man.

“I always saw him as a father figure,” says Darrah, who now works as a garbage collector. “I admire the man to no end. He is the real deal. He embodies compassion.”

Many inmates struggled as young learners. Some were in special education programs; others barely graduated from high school or dropped out altogether. They admit to having had poor self-esteem and social skills. Initially, some also lacked the writing skills necessary for Grinnell’s rigorous coursework.

“It’s not in their background, but by the end, they’re writing A papers,” Drake says. “To see that kind of trajectory with the writing is really, really impressive.”

Cosby says inmates help tutor and encourage each other and serve as a positive example for the rest of the prison, which has about 960 inmates.

“The curriculum was so difficult,” Cosby says. “The professors just kept coming in there with more, and more, and more.”

Darrah, who earned his associate’s degree in May from Kirkwood Community College in Iowa and is continuing his education at the University of Iowa, credits the program with saving his life.

Newton Correctional Facility

Twenty miles from Grinnell’s campus, inside the small utilitarian library at the Newton prison, 10 students listen attentively to **Jack Mutti**, professor of economics and Sidney Meyer Professor in International Economics, discuss monopolies, demand curves, and marginal revenue.

The men sit in rows of three, surrounded by their books and notebooks. A stream of inmates walk past the library windows, but the class remains focused on the diagrams Mutti writes with chalk. They laugh, debate, and question.

“I love higher education. I love learning,” says one of Mutti’s students. “This program is literally the most important thing I have going on in my life.”



Professor of German **Sig Barber** leads a discussion in the prison library.

Photo by Justin Hayworth

John Hammers, 34, of Moorhead, Iowa, was incarcerated from age 19–31. He earned 12 credits, took numerous not-for-credit courses, and helped coordinate the program for other prisoners. He was released from Newton in 2010. A husband and father, Hammers credits the program with his current success as a supervisor at Farmland Foods.

“They made you feel better about yourself inside,” Hammers says of Guenther, Drake, and student volunteers. “They made you feel like a human being again.”

Taking classes while an inmate is fraught with challenges. Even so, the inmates refuse to give up. They learned to use computers, type, study, and research.

“Somewhere along the line it wasn’t about what I was learning; it was about how I was learning. Just a light bulb came on. I was learning how to learn,” Cosby says.

“I would not have made it without the people around me — especially statistics,” he says with a quick laugh.

“The prison drops away and you’re in a classroom,” says Hammers. “It’s magical.”

The Program’s Early Days

All but a handful of college-in-prison programs disappeared after 1994 when the U.S. government eliminated access to the Pell Grant for inmates.

The Liberal Arts in Prison Program at Grinnell began in the spring of 2003 as a creative writing workshop at the Newton prison. The late **Howard Burkle**, professor emeritus of religious studies, taught the first course, which included four Grinnell students.

It continued as a student volunteer program until 2009, when a five-year for-credit pilot began. In 2011, the First Year of College program debuted. Inmates enrolled in the program earn a First Year of College Award after they have completed 32 credits and can earn up to 60 total credits.

The Grinnell Liberal Arts in Prison program is the only college-in-prison program in Iowa and is part of the Consortium for the Liberal Arts in Prison, hosted at Bard College, a growing group of prison programs at highly selective colleges and universities.

Why Prison Education Programs Matter

According to a 2012 Grinnell prison program survey, nearly 50 percent of alumni who volunteered with the prison program now work in fields they say relate directly to their experiences with the program, such as teaching, social work, or prison-related projects and careers.

Brian Buckley ’14 is the Hudson site coordinator for the Prison Public Memory Project. The organization

documents the histories of prisons in New York and uses the research to engage communities across the nation about the role of prison in society.

“Prior to coming to Grinnell, I hadn’t even stepped foot in a prison or a jail,” says Buckley. “The Liberal Arts in Prison Program probably shaped my professional interests and career choices more than just about anything else I did at Grinnell.”

Kyle Orth, 27, a car salesman and father who serves on the board of a homeless shelter in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, dropped out of school at a young age. He read below grade level and admits he didn’t have much going for himself. He spent nearly eight years at the Newton prison.

“I came to the program broken,” he says. “I was pretty hopeless.”

Even so, he began taking a non-accredited literature class.

“I sat in the back. I felt intimidated,” he says. “I fell in love with it almost immediately.”

Participating gave him the boost of self-esteem he needed to apply for the First Year of College Program. He earned 13 credits before his release. Orth stressed the importance of a liberal arts education over vocational training during a recent panel.

“These classes didn’t just teach us. Really it was like a form of treatment,” Orth says. “It really healed a lot of things for us, for me.”

Life After Release

“Emily told me to go directly to school when I left prison,” Cosby says.

And he did. He finished a nine-month welding program at Kirkwood Community College and is now considering a career in social work.

Hammers, Cosby, Darrah, and Orth have traveled across the country with Guenther and Drake, speaking about the program to Grinnell alumni and friends.

Guenther hopes to build connections among Grinnell alumni that could ultimately help participants further their education or find a career after their release from prison. A felony conviction can be a barrier to both college admission and employment.

“It’s a terrible feeling to have to check that box, but it’s imperative that you tell the truth,” says Cosby, a member of the NAACP, which met with Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa about eliminating the felony question from job applications.

Grinnell’s prison program removes inmates from the monochromatic world of prison life and exposes the richness of life as Grinnellians.

Darrah says students are grateful to the College.

“The experience is perpetually resonating, not only inspiring us to continually improve ourselves, but we also now have an indelible need to help others,” he says. “We have learned that it is our responsibility, and we deeply appreciate it as a gift.” ■



Where the Program Operates

The Liberal Arts in Prison Program operates at three sites: a men’s prison, a women’s prison, and a juvenile detention facility.

At the Newton Correctional Facility, a medium security men’s prison, the College offers its accredited First Year of College Program. About 15 men enroll each semester. In spring 2015, the following courses were offered:

- Advanced Principles of College Writing, taught by **Helyn Wohlwend**, lecturer and Writing Lab assistant.
- Brain Science and the Human Animal, taught by **Clark Lindgren**, Patricia A. Johnson Professor of Neuroscience.
- German Literature in Translation, taught by **Sigmund Barber**, professor of German.

These courses are for Grinnell College credit and follow the syllabus and requirements as the same courses on campus.

About 20 Grinnell College student volunteers teach non-accredited courses each semester. In spring 2015, they offered:

- Sequential Art
- Monsters in Mythology
- The American Political System: A Refresher
- Finding Religion: Pop Culture, Secularization, and Churches Missing God
- Shakespearean Plays
- Introduction to Science Fiction Literature
- Alternative Energy
- Dystopian and Utopian Literature
- Working with Words: Spoken Word Poetry Workshop

At the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa, the program provides high school equivalency tutoring. In spring 2015, two students tutored for two hours per week.

At the State Training School for Boys in Eldora, Iowa, a residential facility for adjudicated youth in Iowa, the program provides tutoring in math and reading. In spring 2015, 24 Grinnell College students provided one hour each of weekly tutoring.



Time, **Talent**, Treasure, Ties

Faces of Philanthropy

*Second of a Four-Part Series:
From students to alumni, these Grinnellians are
using their talents and skills to help their school.*

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Sydney McClendon '16 at the 2014 Medallion Ceremony.

by Denton Ketels

James J. Hill, one of Grinnell's founders, was a true visionary. He demonstrated it with the ceremonious presentation of a silver dollar in 1846. The sound of a single coin laid down as a first call to philanthropy still resonates with first-year students who benefit from the endowment Hill started nearly 170 years ago.

Sydney McClendon '16 heard it loud and clear at her first Medallion Ceremony, the event established in 1998 to introduce first-year students to the history of the College. Students are inspired to consider Hill's call to action in the context of their own journey as Grinnellians. Some are moved to reciprocate.

"I was struck by the phrase, 'you are a student here for only four years, but you are an alum for the rest of your life,'" McClendon says. "I can tell already that with the friendships I've made and the mentors I've met at Grinnell, I feel a strong connection to the College. I want it to continue after I leave."

McClendon acquired a taste for philanthropy during high school in McPherson, Kan., where she headed up the Kansas Association for Youth club. She joined the Student Alumni Council (SAC) in her first year at Grinnell because she intuitively valued the tie to the larger alumni community. Her involvement grew in step with her



Photos by Justin Hayworth

Lilianna Bagnoli '15 (left) was a driving force in "I Heart GC Day."

commitment, and in August 2014 she addressed Medallion Ceremony attendees as SAC president.

"I have been a beneficiary of funding from alumni that allowed me to do things I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise, like an externship program in my first year," McClendon says. "I wanted to give back by helping the Student Alumni Council have a larger presence on campus and to make students more aware of what alumni and DAR [Office of Development and Alumni Relations] do for the College."

McClendon's organizational skills have been put to good use replenishing SAC with leadership talent when graduation last year left her as the only student with executive board experience. The resounding success of SAC's National Philanthropy Week in December speaks to her success in attracting other philanthropically-minded students to the group.

The Student Alumni Council engaged 500 students on campus during National Philanthropy Week. In addition, volunteers created and sent gift bags to alums celebrating their 70th Reunion this year. SAC's creativity and effectiveness earned an "Outstanding External Program" award from its national charter organization.

Like any good leader, McClendon gives credit where it is due. "It was set up mainly by our philanthropy chair,

Lilianna Bagnoli '15, and run by the members of our executive council," McClendon says. "It has been really fun for me to bring together a bunch of people who don't know as much about Student Alumni Council and give them opportunities to create their own events and find their own ways to give back to Grinnell."

"I Heart GC Day" in February further demonstrated that the Student Alumni Council is committed to McClendon's goals of raising awareness of SAC and increasing participation in philanthropic activities. McClendon says she hopes more students will get involved with the broader alumni community early in their Grinnell careers.

"We want students to have a more holistic view of what philanthropy is," McClendon explains. "We're trying to show them that while money is a big part of philanthropy, it's not the only way that they can give back to the College. We want them to think about ways to be creative with how they can give back as a student."

"I think a lot of students are caught off guard when they're just out of college and they really don't have an idea of what philanthropy is," McClendon says. "If we can reach out to them now, they will have a better understanding of why the College is calling them after they leave."



Austin Cote '15 (left) lit Gates Rawson Tower to make winter more friendly.

When McClendon took a study-abroad opportunity in Copenhagen this spring, **Austin Cote '15** took over as Student Alumni Council president. Cote says the step up from vice president to do more philanthropically is an extension of the personal and spiritual growth he's experienced at Grinnell.

"I had never done event planning before taking this job, or before I became vice president," Cote says. "All of a sudden I was thrown into this role, but you learn quickly."

A trip to a conference in St. Louis last summer, taken with McClendon and **Michelle Czarnecki**, assistant director of alumni relations for student programs, sparked Cote's imagination. The drive home gave him time to incubate an idea for giving students a psychological boost when winter's short days and cold nights bear down. A few months later, Cote's idea lit up the campus, literally.

"Winter can be hard for people, so Dec. 5 we had a large-scale event called 'Arctic Lights,'" Cote says. "We had class games and a whole bunch of pizza. About 8 o'clock when it was dark, we moved everyone outside and lit up Gates Rawson Tower. We hadn't told anyone. None of the students knew we were going to do it."

Hours of research and several meetings with facilities management were required to coordinate the event. Cote, captain of the Grinnell swim team, didn't even get to

attend the initial lighting. He was participating in a swim meet at the moment the tower was illuminated. Seeing it later that evening, he says, was just as gratifying.

"Giving your talent to a cause mostly involves your willingness to sacrifice, day in and day out," Cote says. "I've seen it in everything I've gotten involved in and everything that Grinnellians do. Regardless of whether you are giving your time to philanthropy or your body for sports, it requires that you give up something in exchange for something better. I don't know if it's a talent in and of itself, but in the long run it achieves the good goals."

Driven as much by a spiritual commitment, Cote gives back in numerous ways through church activities when he's in his hometown, a suburb of Chicago. "I'm very religious," Cote says. "It is my duty to God and my country to help my fellow man. I don't care who it is, if somebody needs help, it's my duty to help them. If the College needs help in a given area, I should at least try to help fill that role. "I know I'll always give back, especially to the College, simply because it has done more to transform who I am than any other organization," Cote says. "The base unit of who I was is still there, but now it's polished. The difference between my first year and fourth year is radical."

Matchmaking of a Sort

GRASP coordinators pair alumni volunteers with prospective students.



Adrienne Enriquez '98 brings prospective students and alumni together in Portland, Ore.

Grinnell Regional Admission Support Program (GRASP) coordinators combine the science of recruitment with the art of attraction. They are chief ambassadors who make sure the Grinnell story is being heard in cities all over the country. Using geographical and other criteria, coordinators match prospective students with alumni best suited to meet with those students on their home turf.

"I believe it's really important to students to have an opportunity to meet alumni, especially if they haven't been (to campus) themselves," says **Adrienne Enriquez '98**, GRASP coordinator in Portland, Ore.

"Students are looking for an opportunity to hear how Iowa is different from Portland, and how Grinnell, specifically, is different from Portland. It's helpful for students to be able to talk to someone who can tell them what it's like, to reassure them that it can be a great experience."

Enriquez works for Oregon GEAR UP, a federally funded program that works to build college access opportunities. She brings those talents plus eight years' experience in college admissions to her volunteer role with GRASP.

"My philosophy is to think about where volunteers live, what communities they have a connection to, and to connect students who go to a particular high school with somebody who may have a connection to that high school or has a connection to the student's neighborhood," Enriquez says.



Ryan Bremer '95 helps alumni motivate prospects in the Bay area.

Ryan Bremer '95 coordinates San Francisco Bay Area GRASP volunteers. "I feel like we play an important role not only in evaluating the students, but in getting them motivated and excited so that if they do get accepted, they're going to take a long look at their admission."

In recent years, the Grinnell admission and alumni relations offices have fine-tuned GRASP operations, favoring one-on-one contact over student-alumni receptions. Improved technological and data support has yielded better student prospects, a greater number of enthusiastic volunteers, better interview matches, and, ultimately, an increase in highly qualified applicants.

"This year we had 23 local alumni volunteers do 46 interviews," Bremer says. "Volunteers connect with their student(s) to find times to meet. Then they write up an evaluation that helps the admission office consider each student. Our volunteers have a significant impact because this year 15 of those 46 students were admitted."

Bremer sounds more like an organizational developer than a chemistry major when he talks about people skills and data management. But the switch in focus from vocation to voluntarism is not that much of a stretch. "I like the process part of it. I build Excel sheets to manage the whole process and I've got formulas and scripts working for me. It's enjoyable. I like making sure I've got people matched up well.

"As far as the value of what we do, it goes back to the idea that giving talent and giving money are not mutually



Ray Happy '83 helps the College envision its philanthropic future.

Photo by Justin Hayworth

exclusive,” Bremer says. “There’s no way the College could afford to pay for all the student interaction that happens through GRASP volunteers all over the country if they tried to do it with admission counselors.

“The alumni volunteers are amazing,” he adds. “They make my job easy. We do most of the interviews in January, which is a busy time with events of the new year. Yet, every year, the volunteers of the Bay Area come through for Grinnell. They are incredibly dedicated and diligent. They make it worry-free for me, which makes it a joy.”

Professional Advice from a Philanthropy Guru

Any organization looking to position itself for the future would do well to engage the astute strategic guidance of **Ray Happy '83**. Principal and managing director of philanthropic consulting group CCS, Happy and his company of 300 fundraising professionals advise a number of major universities, as well as such groups as the Metropolitan Opera, Kennedy Center, Human Rights Watch, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

“Our clients ask us to come in and do assessments, to help them think through their strategic plans, and to help them figure out what goals they should be meeting next

as organizations,” Happy says. “Because of my background and **President [Raynard S.] Kington’s** hopes for a new approach to philanthropy, we started having conversations. I’ve been asked to be an informal adviser to the board. We are going to be talking about major fundraising for the College and what it might look like.”

Grinnell represents something of an anomaly among educational institutions, having conducted only one major capital campaign in its history. That was 20 years ago. The College simply has not done much asking for specific capital or endowment gifts, an area in which Happy says Grinnell will have to “step up its game” in order to compete.

“Most of the institutions we work with have vast armies of people doing this work. They’ve been doing it for a long time and they’re very sophisticated,” Happy says. “We need to play a little bit of catch-up. If we can take steps as alumni and as friends of the College, then I think we will achieve excellent results.

“The stakes are pretty high, but I think it’s a good time, under President Kington’s leadership, to try these things.”

Happy’s optimism is fueled by his appreciation for the College and rooted in his earliest remembrances of Grinnell. “It’s a very supportive community. It’s an engaged community, open to new ideas and points of view.” ■

Every Father's Daughter

24 Writers Remember Their Fathers.



Margaret McMullan '82, editor of this essay collection and author of the foreword, is a professor of creative writing at the University of Evansville in Indiana. Her novels include *Aftermath Lounge*, *Sources of Light*, *When I Crossed No-Bob*, *Cashay*, *How I Found the Strong*, and *In My Mother's House*.

Excerpted from *Every Father's Daughter: Twenty-four Women Writers Remember Their Fathers*. © 2015 by Margaret McMullan. Published by McPherson & Co., www.mcphersonco.com.

I knew my father in many ways — in the South and in the North, through the stories he told me, the places we visited, the food we ate, and through the music we listened to — anything by Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Emmy Lou Harris, and George Jones, way before they became hip. But I knew my father best when we talked about books. When we talked about a book, any book, he talked easily and about anything. When we talked about a book, we always talked about important things.

My father read more than any other non-writer I've known. His favorite authors were William Faulkner, William Shakespeare, James Lee Burke, Eudora Welty, and John Updike. He also loved Alice Munro, Gore Vidal, Henry Miller, Patti Smith, Bruce Chatwin, among countless others. Because I loved my father and because he introduced me to most of these authors and because they really are great writers, my father's favorite authors became mine; my favorite authors became his. Reading and talking about what we were reading was a way my father and I had of staying close, even when we weren't living nearby. Eventually, probably because of my father's love for the written word and talking about literature, I quit my job at *Glamour* to become a writer and a teacher.

I remember when we both read and talked about Philip Roth's *Patrimony* while my father's own father was not well. It helped my father to read a nonfiction narrative about a father and a son struggling together during a difficult time. Reading Roth's book allowed us to talk about the fact that there was no way my father could care for his father, who still lived in Mississippi. My father paid for caregivers, but he said he could not see moving back down with my mother to do the intimate hands-on work Roth wrote about. I took the opportunity then to tell my father flat out that it would be my honor and privilege to care for him, should he ever need that kind of care. He laughed then and said that certainly would not be necessary.

My father and I became literary groupies together. We often attended The Oxford Conference for the Book in Oxford, Mississippi, where he had the opportunity to meet writers he admired, among them Lee Smith and Bliss Broyard. They were two of the first writers to respond to this project with such enthusiasm so that we could include their wonderful essays in these pages. One night after dinner at the conference, we were outside on the square, and my father got to telling a story about how Barry Hannah's uncle Snow Hannah shot Red Alexander during a card game in Forest, Mississippi. "Shot him," my father said. "But didn't shoot him dead. That took a while." One

of the writers there, Mark Richard, turned to me and said, "Have you used this yet?"

Most of the young adult novels I wrote set in Mississippi (*How I Found the Strong*, *When I Crossed No-Bob*, and *Sources of Light*) had everything to do with my father's stories and both of our growing-up years in the South. In so many ways, his memories became my memories.

My father was always deeply involved in my life, especially my writing life. He was the first person I called with every success — a first story sold, an award, a first book contract, and that great two-book deal. He always had the best, unquestioning, gleeful responses. It was all so *good*. He didn't know much about my profession, but as a businessman, he understood both failure and success. A friend of his once compared him to a wrestler. Pinned down or felled, my father never stayed down long on the mat. He fairly *bounced* up, ready for more. He wanted me to be that way as a professional writer.

When my father was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer in June of 2010, he told me he didn't want a lot of weeping and wailing. "Let's just take this as it comes," he said. "Let's not get all emotional. When I was 45 and I had my first heart bypass, I asked myself *Why me?* Well, now, I'm 75. *Why NOT me?*"

We were careful with words. We didn't use the C word. It was "mass" or "images" and sometimes "spots." We stayed positive. We thought of the next meal. We considered dessert. We talked about what we would read next.

"My balance is off." That was his only complaint and it was hardly a complaint; just a statement of fact. He even said it like, *so what? I'm not 100%, but so what?* For him the days were always "beautiful." I always looked great. My food tasted wonderful. People were so nice. *What should we read today?*

When he fell the third time, and he said in his bed at the hospital, "This room sucks the memory out of me," that was when he made the decision to go home and spend the rest of his time surrounded by family, camellias, good food, music, and the literature he loved.

His particular illness is known to change people. Patients can become mean, angry, even violent. But my father retained his calm, his graciousness, his dignified, gentlemanly manner friends still recall. He thanked every nurse, caregiver, and visitor. He said he hoped he wasn't a bother when I helped him walk. When he could no longer walk, he apologized to my husband, who lifted him into his wheelchair. As debilitating as his illness was, my father never disconnected with who he was, who he had been, and the stories that shaped him. ■

Grinnellians Wanted

Calling Alumni Artists of Color

Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College's art museum, maintains a list of alumni artists' contact information. For some possible projects in the next few years, the gallery would like to improve its list of alumni artists of color. The gallery welcomes artists who make digital art, drawings, fiber arts, graphic arts, installations, paintings, photographs, prints, sculpture, and video.

If you would like to be included (or know someone who should be included), send the following information to **Jayn Chaney '05**, director of alumni relations, at chaneyj@grinnell.edu: artist's name, class year, email and/or other contact information, brief description of art, website.

Questions? Contact **Lesley Wright**, director, Faulconer Gallery, wrightl@grinnell.edu.

CLASSNOTES

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Marilyn McCool Hampton '44

Findlay, Ohio

Over the past 70 years, Hampton has volunteered as a class agent and spent 32 years as class fund director. She volunteers for many organizations, including her local county historical society, Campfire Girls, and the League of Women Voters. As an Asa Turner Associate, she's made a bequest to the College that will provide resources to future generations of students.

1952

"Grinnell then and what I perceive to be the Grinnell today are vastly different," writes **Mayfield Marshall, Jr.** "I was discharged from the Navy in June of 1948 and started Grinnell the same year. Of possible interest, my acceptance might have been because the college needed the GI Bill money or the interest of then-President **Sam Stevens** and the recommendation of family friend **Joe Rosenfield '25**. When I was presented with a diploma in 1952, Sam (with Joe at his side) said, 'Marshall, I never thought you would make it.' If I hadn't moved into married student housing in 1950, he was probably right."

1956

Ken Kuntz returned to Yale Divinity School for a reunion and received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Service, recognized for his contributions across the years, October 2014.

1957

Jim Watterson and George Martin moved into a restored 1957 Moroccan Modern house in Rancho Mirage — after 50 years in Los Angeles and Pasadena, Calif. Watterson is working on a huge project for the Pasadena City College, involving "way too many" trips to Pasadena as well as much time on the computer

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Roberta (Bobette) Brown Sanders '45

Peekskill, N.Y.

Sanders was honored both for her capacity to demonstrate leadership as a woman in professional life, at a time when that did not often happen, and as a devoted volunteer for the College. She has been class agent for her own class since 1995 and recently took on those duties for the classes of 1944 and 1946. Classmates praise her frequent, thought-provoking letters and personalized notes.

Submit your Classnotes to:

Classnotes
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
Grinnell College
Grinnell, IA 50112

866-850-1846

Email:
classnotes@grinnell.edu

Website:
<http://bit.ly/1i26zrB>

Deadlines:

Fall 2015 Issue:
Aug. 15, 2015

Winter 2015 Issue:
Nov. 1, 2015

Living the Dream

She loves teaching children how to love science.

Since middle school, **Julie Appel Glavin '74** knew she wanted to become a medical technologist, but she also wanted to attend a small liberal arts school. So she headed to Grinnell.

"I want to do this med tech thing," she told her adviser, **Ken Christiansen**, now professor emeritus of biology. "OK," he said.

"I needed a course in parasitology, which wasn't offered," Glavin says, "but Professor Christiansen let me develop my own independent study in it. He gave me a lab with rats and tapeworms."

During her senior year, she applied for internships in medical technology at about 10 different hospitals, which would have paid her for her time. "Instead, I decided it would be cool to attend the University of Colorado for a year, which meant I had to pay for another year of tuition." She laughs. But she snagged a second bachelor's degree in the process.

"Interestingly enough, I hated my internship," she says. "I wanted to quit after my first week." She told her parents she'd teach instead; but when they pointed out that she didn't have a license, Glavin stayed in medical technology for 13 years.

She was mostly in a lab, not interacting with people. "There were a couple of years where I really, really enjoyed it," she says, "but it wasn't as fulfilling as I thought it was going to be.

"Then one day my third-grade daughter's principal asked me to start a K-5 science program," Glavin says. "He said, 'We'll do hands-on, activity-based science.' He wanted me for a couple of hours a week because I'm a scientist. It immediately became a full-time job." The program at Elliott Elementary School in Munster, Ind., evolved over the next 10 years.

"Kindergarteners through fifth-graders came down twice a week. We grew plants, dissected squid and sheep hearts, and put circuits together."

For the reptile program, a local man brought in a 200-year-old tortoise that weighed 100 pounds, a 14-foot albino python, and a 12-foot North American alligator named Bubba who was not tranquilized. "Those kids never forgot that day," Glavin says.

Glavin didn't have her teaching license, but she was teaching. Technically, however, she was an aide — and paid as one.

"I needed more money," she says, "so I went to Purdue University's

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Thomas Marshall '55
(deceased)

Marshall was a committed volunteer for the city of Grinnell and for the College for many years. In 1989 he founded the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation and served as its president. His work as vice president for the development office of Grinnell College helped strengthen fundraising and alumni connections across generations of Grinnellians.

and conference calls. He thinks that 2015's Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising fashion show will be the last one he produces (after 30 consecutive years).

1960

Ben Barber writes: "The publication of my book *If Mayors Ruled the World* (Yale University Press) has engendered a movement to establish a 'Global Parliament of Mayors,' which I am leading. ... The first sitting of the parliament with 120 cities from around the world will happen on Oct. 23 in London and Oct. 24 in Bristol, England." For more information, see globalparliamentofmayors.org.

Jim Kimball celebrated KSOI 91.9 FM's second year on the air, August 2014. KSOI is a regional nonprofit radio station in Murray, Iowa, where Kimball hosts the daily show *Dear Dr. Jim*.

1963

Peter Kranz has been selected to receive the College of Education Distinguished Research Award from University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA). He also has been nominated

for a UTPA Provost's Excellence Award in Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity.

1965

Kenton Clymer received an invitation to teach a summer school course at Renmin University of China in Beijing and to present lectures at Chongqing University.

John Fisk opened up a prosthetics and orthotics school in Myanmar (Burma) for Exceed (formerly known as The Cambodia Trust), January 2015. Fisk has chaired Exceed's board for the past year. See more information at www.exceed-worldwide.org

1970

Richard Schneirov, labor historian and professor of history at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, is co-author of *Democracy as a Way of Life in America: A History* (Routledge, 2013) and *Chicago in the Age of Capitol: Class, Politics and Democracy During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (University of Illinois Press, 2012). He is also an officer in Indiana's American Association of University Professors chapter.

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Nancy Norris Ross '56
West Des Moines, Iowa

For Ross, volunteer work has been a full-time, lifelong calling. She has volunteered for many nonprofits, including the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission, the State Library Commission, and Grinnell College. She has served her communities politically and socially for more than 50 years and has had an impact on every community she has touched.

Calumet campus and asked for a teaching license.” Purdue told her it would take 41 credit hours. “Those were the best 41 hours I’ve ever spent,” Glavin says without a hint of snarkiness. “Even ed. psych.”

It took her four years to complete those credits, including a stint of student teaching in an inner-city school. She says, “I think I made a difference because those kids were used to the stand-and-deliver method, and I was doing all lab work with them.”

Glavin earned her secondary license in biology, chemistry, and general science. “I got lots of job offers,” she says, “but I went back to my aide job. I love teaching K–5 kids how to love science.”

In May 2014, Glavin’s school experienced a large funding deficit, and her science program was cut. Now she’s the reading and math-intervention teacher. She infuses science however she can. “Even with the change, I’m still having fun,” she says. “But I’m also trying to make a difference with Indiana’s general assembly on funding and strategic planning.”

– Michele Regenold '89



2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Michael (Mick) Hager '65
El Cajon, Calif.

After earning a degree in biology from Grinnell, Hager went on to pursue a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Wyoming and became director of the Museum of the Rockies. In 1991 he became president and CEO of the San Diego Natural History Museum, where he jokes that he’s “chief fossil.” He helps tell the important stories of our planet to encourage appreciation and conservation.

1978

Sheryl Walter was appointed April 3, 2015, as general counsel of the Administrative Office (AO) of the U.S. Courts, the first woman to hold this position. Created in 1939, the AO serves the federal judiciary in carrying out its constitutional mission to provide equal justice under law. Walter lives in Washington, D.C.

1984

Andrew Gross won a 2014 Emmy for outstanding coverage of a breaking news story in a regularly scheduled broadcast, as producer of the *NBC Nightly News* “Devastation in Oklahoma” coverage, about the tornado that tore through Moore, Okla., in May 2013.

1988

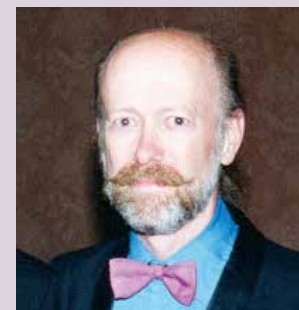
Andrew McKean writes: “I used to look in Classnotes for news of my fellows. Then I started finding more information in the Marriages and Unions section, along with a few updates in Publications. Now, I find more familiar names in the In Memoriam section than elsewhere. It’s been a long time since I updated my status, but hopefully this will help tip

the content balance back to Classnotes and populate what has been a pretty puny entry from my class of 1988.” He wrote that he is editor-in-chief of *Outdoor Life* magazine and recently published his latest book, *How to Hunt Everything*. McKean lives in Glasgow, Mont.

1990

Corey Jones started Gabbit, a new St. Louis-based phone company, in late 2013. “We started Gabbit to provide affordable, high-quality phone service to small businesses. Our founders were once small-business owners too. As their company grew, they learned that there were telephone alternatives available to larger companies not being offered to the little guy. Gabbit was founded to free small businesses from the shackles of Ma Bell and the cable providers. We offer small businesses more standard features, rates that include all taxes and fees, clarity of pricing and ‘white glove’ service because even our smallest customer is a big deal to us.” For more information, see gabbit.net.

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Paul H. Patterson, Jr. '65
(deceased)

Patterson majored in biology at Grinnell and then earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University. He achieved remarkable successes in neurobiology. His work may prove to be the foundation for understanding and treating conditions including autism and Alzheimer’s disease. His colleagues call his work “pioneering,” “audacious,” and even “disruptive,” since he challenged conventional knowledge in order to bring positive change.



Photo by Jon Krieg '84

A Different Take on Justice

Alumna helps settle disputes outside the courtroom.

As director of the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) in St. Paul, Minn., **Jeanne Zimmer '81** has spent the past 14 years helping people resolve conflict. She never thought she would do this for so long.

“The work is just amazing,” she says. “It’s so empowering of people — and I know that word can be patronizing — but there’s a sense that everyone can learn these skills and help others, whether it’s with mediation, restorative justice, in schools and faith communities — wherever.”

The center trains volunteer facilitators in the practice of restorative justice, which provides opportunities for those most directly affected by a conflict — victims, offenders, families, and community members — to be directly involved in responding to and repairing harm. People in conflict meet in a safe place and, with some help, work together toward a resolution.

Jeanne Zimmer '81 is holding a plastic toy that she says can help settle people’s nerves during discussions.

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Diane F. Alters '71

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Through Alters’ work as a journalist and editor for several high-profile news organizations across the country, she has told powerful, transformative stories. Her own story changed, however, when her son, **Mando Montañaño '12**, passed away in 2012 while working as an intern for the Associated Press in Mexico City. Alters has honored his life by finding ways to support the work of Grinnell alumni journalists.

1992

Adrienne McAdory created .wed, a new top-level domain on the Internet that went live May 2014. Adrienne owns Atgron Inc., the company that operates the .wed domain, competing with .com, .org, .net, .biz, and others.

1995

Sarah Rosenberg Strommen was appointed assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, January 2015. She was acting deputy director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. As assistant commissioner, Strommen oversees two divisions — parks and trails and fish and wildlife — and the agency’s strategic division with land management and the legacy amendment.

2002

Emily Westergaard Hamilton has been celebrated by the *Des Moines Business Record* as a “Forty under 40” business and community leader.

2008

Kevin Marcou writes: “I’ve also been a contractor at the Library of Congress for the past few years, and Sept. 30 (it was a busy month!) marked the end of a multiyear project I started off working for and eventually leading to digitize the entire card catalog of the copyright office. In other words, all 37 million cards — representing everything that was copyrighted in the United States between 1898 (when the copyright office moved into the Library of Congress) and 1977 (when the records went fully electronic) — have now been digitized.”

Brad Bishop writes: “The biggest adventure in 2014 for me was my second run at the grand slam of Ultrarunning, completing the four most historic 100-mile races in the United States in the same summer. I was one of 14 to finish this year.” He ran in or near Lake Tahoe, Nev., Vermont, Leadville (Colo.), and Salt Lake City.

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Jean Kummerow '71

Minneapolis, Minn.

Kummerow majored in sociology at Grinnell and earned a Ph.D. in counseling and student personnel psychology from the University of Minnesota. She has become one of the world’s foremost experts on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, a personality inventory questionnaire. In addition, Kummerow volunteers for a health crisis support center and is an active Grinnell volunteer.

The concept of community mediation grew out of the civil rights movement. “The idea is that you don’t necessarily need somebody in a robe or uniform – like a judge or a police officer – to resolve conflict,” Zimmer says. “You don’t have to have the power structure.” At a mediation training session, a partner in a law firm might sit next to someone who just arrived in this country. “We’re really trying to help people build connections,” she says.

The DRC is located in an attractive community building in the heart of a public housing complex overlooking the State Capitol. Sharing space with public housing residents means that the DRC is able to help people with lower incomes and recent immigrants have access to mediation – and the opportunity to keep their conflicts “off the books” and not risk losing their housing.

Colleagues appreciate the DRC’s work and Zimmer’s leadership.

“I love working with Jeanne because she’s honest and has a lot of integrity and compassion,” says Sharon Goens-Bradley, director of the

Twin Cities Healing Justice Program for the American Friends Service Committee. “She introduced me to a group of youth with whom she’d been working around leadership skills; this was work she was doing above and beyond her work with DRC. She saw a need and jumped in to help.”

Kimberly Nightingale, a DRC board member and editor of the *St. Paul Almanac*, a literary arts publication, says her organization changed its bylaws to promote dispute resolution. “When we have issues in our artistic community, we use mediation,” Nightingale says. “It works!”

Zimmer, who received a master’s degree from Case Western Reserve University after majoring in political science at Grinnell, says her job never gets old. Working across cultural differences provides an interesting challenge, she says, even when the conflict might be just another small claim or barking dog dispute. “How do you deal with differences?” she asks. “How can we help people sit down and have conversations with each other? That’s basically what we do.”

– Jon Krieg ’84

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Sam Perlman '90

Baileys Harbor, Wis.

A music major at Grinnell, Perlman was an active student while on campus. He has continued to be an active alumnus, volunteering as the class agent, participating on the class committee, and serving as president of the Alumni Council. He’s equally involved in his local community where he’s a board member or volunteer for organizations including the Door County YMCA and Door County Habitat for Humanity.

Degrees

Laura Baxter da Silva '97, master of divinity, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, Mo., May 2015.

Georgia Sophie Nye '06, master of arts in international education, New York University, December 2014.

Michael T. Horrell '09, Ph.D. in statistics, University of Chicago, March 2015.

Marriages and Unions

Liz Burton '00 and Michael Hamrick, in Maryville, Tenn., Sept. 13, 2014. The wedding party included *Jessica Watson '00*. Also attending were *Tequia Burt '98*, *Greg Nettleton '99*, and, from the class of 2000, *Emily Greenall*, *Nathan White*, and *Joe Besharse*.

Alison Owens '05 and Christopher Kaup, July 19, 2014.

Egan R. Liias '05 and Lisa Greene, Nov. 15, 2014.

Kevin Marcou '08 and Nicole Clery, Sept. 20, 2014.

Jeff P. Winer '08 and Meghan Schreck, in Harvard, Mass., Aug. 23, 2014. The wedding party included *Mark D'Agostino*, *Robin Shields-Cutler*, *Nora Shields-Cutler*, *Chris Knap*, *Dhiren Patki*, *Zach Newman*, *Krish Batra*, *Calvin Kennell-Heiling*, and *Mike Fenster*, all from the class of 2008.

Births and Adoptions

Carter Smith Epstein '91 and Alexandra Smith Epstein, Feb. 18, 2015, their first child, a daughter, Lyra Smith Epstein.

Jason B. Elbogen '94 and Xiaodong Zhang, Jan. 12, 2015, their first child, a son, Jacob Zhang Elbogen.

Ryan Bremer '95 and Sara Bremer, March 13, 2015, their first child, a daughter, Mackenzie Jayne Bremer.

Adam N. Bleier '96 and Rui Wang, May 13, 2014, their first child, a son, Evan Bleier.

Sarah Hodges Olivieri '00 and Vincent Olivieri, Feb. 5, 2015, their first child, a daughter, Hallie Maria Olivieri, named after *Hallie Flanagan 1911*, who was an author, playwright, and director of the Federal Theatre Project.

2015 ALUMNI AWARD



Alison Beckman '96

Minneapolis, Minn.

After graduating from Grinnell with a degree in sociology, Beckman earned a master’s in social work degree from the University of Minnesota. She has worked for more than 10 years with torture victims from all over the world, helping them to heal. At the same time, she strives to inform the world of this tragedy and shares tools to help others with this important work.

A Focus on Polar Bears

A Russian major's work with the World Wildlife Fund.

Whether through the telephoto lens of her camera or her work in villages across Russia, Alaska, and Canada, **Elisabeth Kruger '06** is focused on polar bears.

Kruger serves as the Arctic and Bering Sea program officer in World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Anchorage office. A major focus of her work is decreasing human-polar bear conflict — starting with safely managing bear attractants like food. “Polar bears, the most carnivorous of all bears, are extremely curious, smart, and powerful,” she says — a troublesome combination when faced with the temptation of “easy” food in villages.

Before arriving in Alaska, the Russian major first moved from the cozy classrooms of ARH to Irkutsk, Russia, on a Fulbright grant studying Siberian folk theatre. Siberia became her home for four years, and through her volunteer work with conservation groups, the pristine wilderness of the Lake Baikal region became her inspiration. When it was time to return to the United States, Kruger knew that the taiga and tundra she longed for made Alaska — where “the streets and volcanoes are named after Russian explorers” — her only choice.

Kruger's intimate knowledge of both North American and Russian cultures and languages has proven invaluable in facilitating WWF's transboundary work on conservation issues in this region, culminating in a trilateral strategic plan coordinating the efforts of WWF national organizations in Russia, Canada, and the United States on issues ranging from oil and gas development to salmon fisheries management. In the neighboring Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas, decisions made on the national level can easily have far-ranging international consequences.

Kruger appreciates that WWF positions itself “at the confluence of scientific research and local ecological knowledge,” using both resources to address conservation concerns in her region.

As polar bears have become an international icon for the global effects of climate change, research on bears garners ample public and media attention, says Kruger. “The U.S. Geological Survey recently announced that one of two U.S. subpopulations of polar bears experienced a 40 percent decline between 2001 and 2010 due to the



Gretchen Lay, Michael Gideon, and Eric Ohrn, (all '07) were photographed with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz while attending the National Tax Association conference in Santa Fe, N.M., November 2014.

Jon S. Pettitt '01 and Kelly Pettitt, Feb. 16, 2015, their first child, a son, Theodore Jeffrey Pettitt.

Jared C. Baszler '02 and Ashley Baszler, Jan. 30, 2015, their second child, a second son, Logan Alan Baszler.

Leah Cameron Blasiak '03 and Rob Hagan, Feb. 20, 2015, their first child, a son, Michael Angus Hagan.

Alissa C. Briggs '05 and Paul M. Duffin '05, June 27, 2014, their first child, a daughter, Julia Duffin.

Jason R. Arends '05 and Annie Cotton, July 27, 2014, their first child, a daughter, Lena Marie Arends Cotton.

Errata

Lauren (L.C.) Cragg '80 is the co-executive producer of *Born to Lead: Jim Calhoun*, a documentary about the former coach of the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team. It launched on Vimeo and Amazon on March 13, 2015. Cragg's name and title were misstated in the Spring 2015 issue.

Sara Stevenson Rooney '00 and Mark Rooney had their fourth child, third daughter, Hannagan Elise Rooney, on Sept. 5, 2014. Her middle name was misspelled in the Winter 2014 issue.

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Jousting, tie-dyeing a shirt, and painting a truck with glitter — just a few of the kid-friendly activities available during Alumni Reunion 2015.

effects of climate change on their habitat, stabilizing at the lower level in 2007.” Such stabilization in the South Beaufort Sea population gives researchers like Kruger hope that “if lawmakers act now to drastically reduce greenhouse emissions, polar bears as a species may still have a chance” of surviving this environmental crisis.

Alaska is home to a significant number of highly accessible, world-class researchers. Kruger, lacking a formal scientific background, appreciates that those researchers are both open to collaboration and are available to discuss their research. WWF’s own Arctic scientific research currently includes a partnership developing a method for individual polar bear identification using environmental DNA collected from their snowy paw prints. Kruger has contributed numerous snow samples from her travels across bear territory. While it won’t replace the traditional mark-recapture method of collecting polar bear data, the expected increase in data points available to researchers at this crucial juncture could be transformative in our understanding of polar bear adaptation throughout the Arctic.

– Hilary Bown ’02



Photo by Elisabeth Kruger, WWF

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Brandy Agerbeck ’96 taught a short course during Alumni College about her work as a graphic facilitator. Agerbeck records group discussions live through drawings and diagrams, creating a map of conversations as they occur. Her course at Alumni College covered graphic facilitation basics and put her tools in the hands of other alums. Agerbeck has published one book on graphic facilitation, *The Graphic Facilitator’s Guide: How to use your listening, thinking, and drawing skills to make meaning*, and is working on a second.

Publications, Productions, and Exhibitions

“TIA 1” and “TIA 2,” two poems by **Robert Vas Dias ’53**, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, December 2014. They were “my first publication in a medical journal,” Vas Dias writes. TIA stands for transient ischaemic attack, or ministroke. Also, *Syntax of Bridges*, published by Ki Press, London, a collaborative artist’s book by British artist Julia Farrer and Vas Dias, launched in New York, November 2014, and at the Eagle Gallery in London, February 2015.

“Nonfinite verbs and negotiating bilingualism in codeswitching: Implications for a language production model,” by **Carol Myers-Scotton ’55** and Janice Jake, *Bilingualism, Language and Cognition*, Vol. 17, No. 3, 2014. Myers-Scotton, who retired in 2003 as a distinguished professor from the University of South Carolina, has continued since 2006 with academic publications and presentations while a nonteaching adjunct professor and research fellow in African Studies at Michigan State University. Also in 2014, she presented papers at the University of Leiden (Netherlands) and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig (Germany).

“Power Cat” in *Legends* (Grey Wolfe Publishing), Fall 2014, and “My Stalwart Lover,” *Persimmon Tree*, Winter 2015, both poems by **Beverly Kahling Offen ’63**. She did a reading for the Illinois State Poetry Society in February 2014.

A Beginner’s Life – The Adventures of Tom Phillips, a memoir by **Tom Phillips ’64**, Full Court Press, March 2015.

Quirky Sleeps: Some of America’s Most Fun Places to Spend the Night, by **Bruce Armstrong ’69** and **Susan Hannaford Armstrong ’70**, their second travel book, Armstrong Travel Ventures, 2014. The book is a guide to 138 unusual lodging places, all open to the public, in 42 states. The listings include castles, cabooses, lighthouses, treehouses, caves,

The System Goes Pro

Sacramento Kings hand Arseneault, Jr. the keys to their D-League lab.

It begins like a movie script: Early one September morning, Grinnell assistant basketball coach **David Arseneault, Jr. '09**, gets an email from the renowned “father of basketball analytics,” Dean Oliver. The email requests a call back. Arseneault dials up Oliver, assuming that the former director of production analytics for ESPN is mining information about the Grinnell System — the formula-driven, fast-paced style of play that came to the basketball world’s attention after **Jack Taylor '15** turned in a 138-point game in 2012.

In an unexpected twist, Oliver, acting in his new role as analytics guru for the National Basketball Association’s Sacramento Kings, asks Arseneault if he would be interested in a position with the Kings’ NBA Development League team, the Bighorns, in Reno, Nev.

Arseneault recalls: “I said ‘Yeah, sure, but I just have to clarify ... Is this the head coaching position?’ I told my dad [Grinnell head basketball coach **David Arseneault**] about it, and he said the same thing, ‘Are you sure this is the *head coaching* position?’ I talked to them again, and they flew me out for an interview.

“I didn’t even bring my resume,” Arseneault says. “I got up and talked to the [general manager] of the Kings, the assistant GM, Oliver, the assistant GM of the Reno Bighorns, and one of their other analytics guys. I told them what we do — and if there’s one thing in this world that I can stand in front of anybody and talk about for hours on end, it’s our system and our style of play.

“They knew a little bit about it. They’d of course heard of Jack Taylor. But they wanted to know what changes I would make, how it would work, what I would like to see, the differences from the college level to the D-League, and so I talked about all that. Apparently they liked what I had to say.

“Apparently there is somebody out there that’s crazier than me and my dad,” Arseneault jokes, “and that would be the guys that hired me.”

Crazy like foxes, maybe. It’s no secret that the Kings are transforming their franchise by embracing analytics and experimentation.

“Really and truly, they have been 100-percent supportive,” says Arseneault, who took the coach post in October 2014. “They have given

yurts, former jails, Hobbit homes, silos, tall ships, and a host of other eclectic lodgings. The Armstrongs spent more than 100 days on the road, putting more than 22,200 miles on their car, in their research. The book is organized geographically by state, but also contains a cross directory by type of lodging for travelers who want to concentrate on a particular area of interest, such as lighthouses.

“Paper and Fountains,” by **Alice Rogoff '71**, a short story in the online magazine *Caveat Lector*, Spring 2015. Also by Rogoff, three poems — “Elaine Black Yoneda 1930s,” “Sumi Abedin,” and “The Older Women in the Choruses” — in *Poets 11 Anthology: 2014*, published by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Rogoff also won first and second prizes in the 2014 Pacific Media Workers Guild Freelance Journalism Award in the Creative Writing-Poet category for her poems “Lawrence” and “The Village of Mad, Hungary.”

Aftermath Lounge: A Novel in Stories by **Margaret McMullan '82**, a collection of short stories published on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Calypso Editions, March 2015. The stories explore how tragedy shapes the characters of people living in a small Gulf Coast town that was devastated by Katrina. McMullan saw the destruction firsthand. Her family’s historic home in Pass Christian, Miss., was among the first to be rebuilt. McMullan also edited *Every Father’s Daughter: Twenty-Four Women Writers Remember Their Fathers*, McPherson & Co., April 2015, which is excerpted in this issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*.

The Natural Sciences: A Student’s Guide, by **John Bloom '74**, Crossway, January 2015. “The book is a reflection of my long-term interest in the common ground shared by Christianity and the natural sciences, and my 15 years of teaching courses in this area,” Bloom writes.

“The Failed Dream of the Easy Commute,” by **Sam Tanenhaus '77**, *The New Yorker*, Feb. 8, 2015; also in *The New Yorker* by Tanenhaus: “‘Selma’ vs. ‘Selma,’” Jan. 26, 2015, and “The Power of Congress,” Jan. 19, 2015.

“Song of Weights and Measurements,” a poem by **Martha Silano '83**, *Poetry*, March 2015. Founded in 1912, *Poetry* is the oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English-speaking world. Silano is author of four full-length collections of poetry, including *The Little Office of the Immaculate Conception*, winner of the 2010 Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize, and *Reckless Lovely* (Saturnalia Books 2014). She also co-edited a poetry-writing textbook, *The Daily Poet: Day-By-Day Prompts For Your Writing Practice* (Two Sylvias Press 2013). Her poems have appeared in *Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *North American Review*, where she received the 2014 James Hearst Poetry Prize, and *Kenyon Review Online*. Silano’s poem “Love” was included in *The Best American Poetry 2009* (Scribner’s). Silano teaches English at Bellevue College and edits *Crab Creek Review*, a Seattle-based literary magazine.

WISE BLOOD, an opera by **Anthony Gatto '85** and part of an opera/exhibition based on the novel by Flannery O’Connor, made in collaboration with media artist Chris Larson, co-commissioned by the Walker Art Center and The Soap Factory in Minneapolis; scheduled to premiere in eight shows at The Soap Factory, June 2015. See: walkerart.org/calendar/2015/wise-blood.

One Week in Wyoming, a contemporary romance anthology, by Julia Kelly (a pen name for **Julia Bottles '08**) and three other authors, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, September 2014. Her second book was released in May 2015.

“Economic Inequality: It’s Far Worse than You Think,” by **Nick Fitz '11**, *Scientific American*, March 11, 2015. The article describes the great divide between beliefs, ideals, and reality.

me full freedom to experiment how I want and to see what happens.”

Myriad variables mean the Bighorns have to play a hybrid of the Grinnell system. Arseneault has to adjust to, among other things, almost-daily roster changes.

Judging by the point totals in a 174-169 win over the Los Angeles D-Fenders in January this year, Arseneault’s Bighorns are providing the Kings’ brain trust with plenty of crunchable numbers. How the story will resolve for the Kings, the Bighorns, Arseneault, and the System itself is all part of the entertainment value.

“I think (the System) could translate wonderfully,” Arseneault says. “I am more convinced now than ever that it could work in the D-League and at the NBA level.

“I’m enjoying life and I’m having a great time. If it extends into a second year and becomes more of an opportunity – if they like what we’re doing and I keep enjoying myself as much as I am – then I would love to be back here.”

–Denton Ketels



Photo by Justin Hayworth

In Memoriam

Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 866-850-1846 and ask for Meg Jones Bair.

Elmira “Bunny” Russell Barker ’37, Iowa Falls, Iowa, March 10, 2015.

Marilyn M. Meyer ’39, Garnavillo, Iowa, Feb. 20, 2015. See her obituary: bit.ly/1GaUJLS.

Shirley McCoy Converse ’40, Sun City, Ariz., Jan. 21, 2015. Survivors include her son, *Robin M. Converse ’64*. See her obituary: bit.ly/1aKVJUU.

Jean Eckford Kennett ’40, Scottsdale, Ariz., Dec. 19, 2014. See her obituary: bit.ly/1G0qV03.

Marie Nipps Smith ’41, Kirkwood, Mo., Aug. 31, 2014.

Martha Smith White ’42, Marion, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2015. See her obituary: bit.ly/1bkWz0S.

Norma Dibble Ewalt ’46, Longmont, Colo., Sept. 29, 2014. Survivors include her daughter, *Jill Ewalt Cutler ’74*. See her obituary: bit.ly/1Qa7WZr.

Betty Long Heinemann ’46, Centennial, Colo., Feb. 28, 2015.

Richard B. Ryden ’46, Windsor Heights, Iowa, March 15, 2015. See his obituary: bit.ly/1E1Zg2j.

Lois Pace Forshey ’47, Hollywood, Fla., Dec. 7, 2014.

Charles L. McMurray ’49, Webster City, Iowa, March 11, 2015. Survivors include his wife, *Anne Royal McMurray ’48*; sons *David A. McMurray ’76* and *Scott C. McMurray ’79*; sisters *Barbara McMurray Rickey ’42* and *Mary McMurray Pigot ’48*; granddaughter *Julia S. McMurray ’08*; and nephew *Jon Royal ’70*. See his obituary: bit.ly/1EK602o.

George “Sam” A. Gregg ’50, St. Charles, Ill., March 3, 2015. Survivors include his wife, *Mary Hoogeveen Gregg ’53*. See his obituary: bit.ly/1HnWjKv.

Elsbeth Wright Pope ’50, Portsmouth, N.H., Jan. 3, 2015. See her obituary: bit.ly/1GcKQii.

Jean Freshwaters Robertson ’50, Washington, Iowa, Nov. 25, 2014.

Robert S. Warren ’50, Eldon, Iowa, Sept. 2, 2014.

LaRae Turner Ackerson ’51, Evanston, Ill., Jan. 14, 2015. See her obituary: bit.ly/107Z9ZH.

Suzanne Ainsworth Jackson ’51, Wheaton, Ill., Sept. 15, 2014.

Marleen Southard Slocum ’53, Naples, Fla., Jan. 13, 2015. Survivors include her husband, *Donald Slocum ’51*.

Ann Weaver Barry ’54, Georgetown, Texas, March 2, 2015. See her obituary: bit.ly/1bdCf0s.

Priscilla Sharp DesJardins ’55, Tulsa, Okla., Feb. 27, 2015.

Helen Jefferson McCormick Keener ’55, Gibson City, Ill., Feb. 15, 2015.

Thomas K. Marshall ’55, Grinnell, Iowa, March 24, 2015. Survivors include his daughter, *Amy Marshall Flannery ’85*; and his granddaughters, *Jessica S. Flannery ’15* and *Laura J. Flannery ’17*. See his obituary: bit.ly/1P5nXP8.

Catherine “Kit” Arveson Thoma ’55, Seattle, March 13, 2015. Survivors include her daughter, *Tracy Thoma Robinson ’83*.

Joel R. Stubbs ’56, Heathsville, Va., Feb. 23, 2015. See his obituary: bit.ly/1D7enDz.

Norma Showalter Moore '61, Oregon City, Ore., Oct. 22, 2014. Survivors include her sister, *Carol Showalter Wells '54*. See her obituary: bit.ly/107ZUSo.

Nicholas I. Peters '65, Beltsville, Md., Nov. 12, 2014.

Donald J. Chamberlain '74, Mount Vernon, Iowa, Jan. 11, 2014.

James D. Greenberg '83, Lancaster, Pa., April 11, 2015. See his obituary: bit.ly/1yL9lv2.

Margaret E. Lewis '87, Evanston, Ill., March 21, 2015.

Edward Foster, San Diego, June 25, 2014. Survivors include his wife, *Jan Kennedy Foster '66*, and son, *James K. Foster '94*. Edward Foster joined the Grinnell faculty in 1962, teaching English poetry and history of the English language for nine years. See his obituary: bit.ly/1yL9X9l.

Helen Ann Orton, Grinnell, Iowa, Jan. 20, 2015. Orton was a visit coordinator in the Grinnell College Office of Admission from 1990 until she retired in 2009. See her obituary: bit.ly/10ywgRd.

Alumni Council News

During the March 6–8, 2015, meeting on the Grinnell campus, presided over by Susan Henken-Thielen '80, council president, the Alumni Council conducted the following business:

- The council heard updates on the impact of work to support students and community members with disabilities. Recent College efforts focus on the need for tactile warning strips at pedestrian railroad track crossings, for induction loops for hearing assistance in campus buildings, and for “net nutrition,” providing online information about ingredients in food served in the dining hall.
- **President Raynard S. Kington** spoke about campus concerns in the areas of diversity, on-campus mental health facilities, and Title IX.
- The council discussed with admission staff ways it is using Crane Metamarketing’s report data to develop materials that better represent what Grinnell offers to students, on campus and as alumni.
- Development and alumni relations staff reported on efforts to update forum.grinnell.edu, Grinnell’s alumni website. Many improvements are already in place and more are anticipated.
- Committee chairs **Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89**, stewardship; **Jim Decker '75**, communications; **Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94**, alumni engagement; and **Peter Calvert '79**, alumni-student connections, discussed the work of these committees to strengthen and improve alumni relations and development.
- The council accepted with enthusiasm the Membership Committee’s nominations of four new Alumni Council members whose terms will begin in June: **J. Gof Thomson '62**, **Rick Stuck '82**, **Ryann Haines Cheung '93**, and **Jeetander Dulani '98**.
- For 2015–16, **Ed Senn '79** will become council president while Henken-Thielen will become past president and chair of the Alumni Awards Committee. Onwuachi-Willig was chosen as president-elect.
- Departing council members **Pam Dryden Rogacki '64** and **Mark Henry '05** were honored for their service.

The Alumni Council welcomes applications for membership from all Grinnell alumni, due Jan. 5 of each year. Additional information is available at forum.grinnell.edu/alumni-council

The Alumni Council is a group of 26 Grinnell alumni and two student representatives functioning under the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. The council’s mission is to foster strong connections between alumni and the College and among the 20,000 Grinnell alumni who live in 50 states and 55 nations.

– Mary Knuth Otto '63

Why I Joined the Military

Alumna joined the military 25 years ago because of Grinnell.

I entered Grinnell in 1980, when the campus had not quite been cleansed of the liberalism of the '70s. The link between policymakers and the military was a bit fuzzy to me, and to describe myself as naive at that time would be gentle. I had heard about a campus sit-in against military recruiters that eventually drove them completely away. I formed a group called "Freeze and Disarm" that was against nuclear proliferation. We drove to Washington, D.C., to participate in demonstrations against nuclear weapons proliferation. I was certain that the military was full of mean old guys with extraordinarily (and unfashionably) short haircuts just looking for ways to get out there and have a war with the Russians. In any case, I loved Grinnell and the liberalism of the campus and the era.

After graduating in 1984 during the middle of a recession, with \$100 in my checking account and a mountain of student-loan debt, I secured my very first job – making copies in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an hourly wage and no health insurance. Although I was able to find salaried positions from there, I was not able to pay rent, pay down my loans, and buy food all at the same time on the meager salary my liberal arts degree was securing me.

Then one day I stumbled upon a guy approximately my own age who was celebrating his last day as the assistant manager of the local Radio Shack and his entrance into the Air Force. He told me the Air Force was even going to pay off his student loans. I rushed home and began calling recruiters.

After sporadic attempts and rejections, I finally enlisted in the Army National Guard as a diesel mechanic. I was 26 and figured that there would be many benefits to one enlistment of six years as a "one-weekend a month" guardsman, and two years of inactive service: a) student loan repayment; b) introduction to a hefty population of single men my age who worked out a lot; c) the opportunity to learn how to maintain a vehicle; d) the opportunity to serve my country; and e) extra income each month. There seemed to be absolutely

no down side and at that point I thought I could stick out one single enlistment. My mother was horrified and sent me off with the advice that ran counter to my Grinnell education: keep my mouth shut and I'd be fine.

Here I am 25 years later, still serving, currently as a reservist on active duty. The good news is that my student loans were paid off along the way.

I am a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. I have met many politically conservative guys with very short haircuts (some good, some bad), but I can honestly report that I have never met anyone in the military who likes to go to war or who promotes war. In fact, the people I have met who hate war the most are people in the military.

I can report that I have a more expansive understanding of government, foreign policy, Americans, politics, and our culture because of my service. I might understand men better, too. I have been spit on while walking down the street in uniform and thanked and blessed for my service. I have strong and enduring friendships with others in the military from across the political spectrum.

I am proud to be an American soldier. I give my time, energy, and devotion because I self-identify as a soldier. I also have come to respect and admire even more deeply those who tirelessly work for peace and agree that peace must be promoted at all costs. I hold dearly my liberal values even though my life has not always been an expression of them.

Most surprising, I gained all this from Grinnell, albeit in an unexpected way. Were it not for the mountain of student loans, I likely would not have had the motivation to join the Army. More importantly, my Grinnell experience taught me to take in all perspectives and examine them through ethical, moral, and practical lenses. The foundation of my liberal education also has provided me the intellectual and spiritual capability to examine the world and be able to understand differences from my own perspective. Thanks, Grinnell! ■



Gail Fisher '84, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, is on active duty and has served on multiple deployments in Afghanistan. She lives in Arlington, Va.



GRINNELL COLLEGE

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733 Broad Street
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Iowa View



Ian Saderholm '15 of Berea, Ky., **Scott Olson '15** of Grayslake, Ill., **Abby Lowe '15** of Saint Louis, Mo., and **Doug Dale '15** of East Longmeadow, Mass., pose with their diplomas after Commencement May 18, 2015. (Photo by Justin Hayworth)